



THURSDAY, MARCH 26TH, 2015

## ALUN CAIRNS - STANDING UP FOR THE VALE ALL YEAR ROUND

### Cairns secures life changing operation for Barry schoolgirl



**Nine year old Barry schoolgirl Niamh Hurn has won her battle to receive a life changing £30,000 operation after Alun Cairns MP pressed the case for funding from the NHS.**

Following an intervention from Alun, the operation will now take place tomorrow, transforming the opportunities for young Niamh.

Mum Michelle Hurn from Barry said: "We want to thank Alun - without him we wouldn't have achieved this. My local MP played a vital role in ensuring that my daughter received the £30,000 life changing operation. We didn't think we would win the battle, but my whole family is grateful for the intervention from Alun. His support throughout the process was hugely valuable, and I know that Alun would support any family in Barry and the Vale in the same way. Above all, my local MP is approachable and does what he says he will do."

Mr Cairns said: "I am absolutely thrilled at the news that Niamh will get the much needed operation in the next few days. We worked hard for several months to get the operation approved on the NHS. The chances of a successful operation was very much time dependent as it was needed for Niamh before she was 10 years old. We were always hopeful that the NHS would fund the operation, but to get confirmation was such an emotional feeling."

"The Hurn family are a credit to the community - they have done an incredible amount of fundraising, and to see how happy the family were upon receiving the news, is a real highlight during my time as an MP."

### Local MP sniffs out good cause



**Vale MP and keen runner, Alun Cairns, is in training for the 2015 London Marathon next month as he aims to complete the course as the fastest MP and raise money for two local charities.**

Mr Cairns will be running in less than a month to raise money for the Holton Road branch of the pet charity PDSA and Macmillan Cancer Support. The MP will be running the marathon just two weeks before the General Election on May 7th, and has been in training since Christmas to try and beat his previous time in 2014.

In Barry, the PDSA will benefit from the fundraising after Mr Cairns met with Barry resident Gail Smith and her dog 'Champ' who receives regular support for chronic diabetes.

Gail Smith from Barry said: "I am really pleased that my local MP will be running the marathon in aid of the PDSA. The charity has helped my family and Champ so much, and I am so grateful for the work they do. I will be supporting Alun in April, and hope he finishes as the fastest MP again."

To sponsor Alun Cairns, visit <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/AlunCairns>

### Alun Cairns My plan

#### For Barry and Vale

- 1 Secure regeneration of Barry Island
- 2 Ensure access to superfast broadband across the Vale
- 3 Stop excessive housing development
- 4 Scrap the T9 and spend the saving on local buses
- 5 Fight for Fair Funding for our community

Prepared by Ross England on behalf of Alun Cairns, 10th of 20 High Street, Barry, CF64 7HA

Keep up to date with local news: [fb.com/aluncairns](https://www.facebook.com/aluncairns)

## ALUN SECURES ISLAND DEAL

**Alun Cairns has expressed his delight that Barry Island will see a new top class fairground open ready for the summer.**

For many months, Alun has played a key role in bringing together and guiding negotiations between the Barry Island Property Company and the new funfair operator Henry Danter.

The arrival of a new fairground on the Pleasure Park site is great news for Barry Island and the wider Vale. Alun is working with the new owner Henry Danter to build plans for the development of a multimillion pound funfair on the four acre site opening soon.

Alun said: "I am so pleased that the many months of hard work will result in a top class fairground for Barry. It has been a rollercoaster ride, but I have worked closely with parties involved to enable a wonderful boost for the area. It has been my aim since being elected in 2010 to get the Barry Island project

moving. It is just the start, I know from speaking to local people that the desire exists for the Vale to make the most of its potential - I am determined to make the most of our natural assets.

He added: "I see this new scheme as just the start of significant regeneration in Barry that can boost the economy, create jobs and see businesses growing as a result of this significant investment. The time is right for private investment when we have low unemployment and the long term economic plan is working."

The MP has spelt out his plans to develop Barry and other parts into a year round destination with Barry Island the catalyst for growth in tourism in the wider Vale. During negotiations Alun discussed the project personally with the Prime Minister David Cameron, Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne and Secretary of State for Local Government Eric Pickles.



This 4-page wrap has been funded by voluntary donations to the Vale of Glamorgan Conservatives.

# YOUR LETTERS

## Operation due to MP's intervention

**I wanted to write and highlight the enormous role Alun Cairns played in ensuring that my daughter received a £30,000 life changing operation on the NHS.**

We didn't think we would win the battle, but my whole family is grateful for his intervention – he is approachable and does what he says he will do. His support throughout the process was hugely valuable, and I know that Alun would support any family in Barry and the Vale in the same way.

Michelle Hurn, Barry

## MP secures my blue badge

**Thank you, Alun. Though I've known him for a number of years, Alun's support since my accident in Rhoose, has been invaluable.**

He's helped me in a number of ways to rebuild my life and helping me to win my battle for a blue badge has allowed me to do what I love best – working with children.

Alun has always been available to talk when I needed him and, moreover, he would come to see me and listen to the problems I had. Then sorted it all out within days. He is a fantastic local MP who will help anyone in the community.

Karin Williams, Rhoose

## Continue to fight excessive housing, Alun

**Alun Cairns MP clearly understands the issues surrounding excessive housing developments in communities.**

He has provided an enormous amount of guidance and support in helping us fight excessive housing plans in Barry. He is always seen in the community, and knows people in every street.

That is what we expect from our local MP and that is why we wanted to write in. Housing is a hugely important issue in Barry and the rural Vale, and we are fortunate to have an MP that understands the system and the impact it can have on local residents.

Frank and Debra Cleland, Barry

## Volunteering at its best

**Credit where it's due, me and my friends agree that our MP Alun Cairns has been an MP that is genuinely trying to improve communities in the Vale of Glamorgan, and is happy to support residents no matter whether the issue is large or small. He has done so much for the volunteers that do so much in the local community.**

He has raised tens of thousands of pounds for charity over the years, and has been a wonderful champion of local good causes. Nothing is too much trouble for Alun, and he has always tried to support our events that provide support and care in Barry and the wider Vale – long may it continue!

Chris Whitchurch, Barry



## WORKING TOGETHER WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO RESOLVE THEIR CONCERNS

**Without question, the plans for excessive housing across Barry and the Vale have formed the largest part of my postbag over the last 5 years.**

Whether you live near Highlight Park or Weycock Cross in Barry; Colwinston, Ystradowen, Cowbridge, St Nicholas, Wick or Wenvoe in the rural Vale, communities have been angry at how large numbers of houses are being foisted upon them.

In credit to the campaign groups in each community, all accept the need for some new housing. After all, we all have children and families and want them to be able to live in our community. Their anger was at the scale of development that was wholly against the natural extension of the settlement.

*Worries also focussed around infrastructure, the impact on schools and local health services etc.*

The background stems from the Welsh Government's directive to build 10,000 new houses in the Vale. This is a massive increase – 54% on the average built over the previous 15 years. The Vale Council had the opportunity to challenge the figure but chose not to do so. I objected strongly.

The next stage of the Local Development Plan is for the Vale Council to publish amendments based on the consultations. This amended plans will then be passed on to the Welsh Government for approval. I am a little concerned that this step seems to have been delayed. I hope that they are not planning more controversial proposals and waiting for the election to pass.

If the Welsh Government accepted new laws from the UK Parliament, we wouldn't be in this situation. In England, local communities are given much more control over their 'Neighbourhood Plans'. I personally asked the politicians in Cardiff Bay whether Wales could be included in the change of law. They refused.

Please be assured that I will do all I can to work with communities in challenging excessive proposals. We will have the opportunity to make our case to the Welsh Government directly. I plan to be there representing the whole of the Vale.

*May I use this opportunity to thank all individuals and communities for their support over the last 5 years and I hope we can continue to do so after May 7th.*

ALUN CAIRNS MP

## Best for Dinas and the Vale

**As an avid support of his, I can safely say that Alun Cairns is a highly respected and true representative of the people of Dinas Powys and the Vale.**

His integrity, accessibility and hard work is enhanced by his ability to speak both Welsh and English. He is fighting for the transport network to be prioritised locally, and has held regular community meetings to listen and act upon the views of the residents. I have no doubt, judging by the letters in this paper, that many others feel the same way.

Margaret Hayley, Dinas Powys

## Llandow and our MP

**Many people have written lately about our MP Alun Cairns to this paper, but I couldn't think of a better person than him to represent the Vale of Glamorgan in Parliament.**

His support for my area throughout the past five years is really appreciated, and I know that if he takes as much interest in other parts of the Vale as he does in Llandow then he is a champion of the area.

I hope Alun gets back in and is allowed to continue to be a wonderful campaigner for the Vale of Glamorgan.

Jane Spill, Llandow

## I'm backing Alun for Barry

**I have had the pleasure to know Alun for a number of years and he has been a vocal and active campaigner.**

He has worked tirelessly to see the transformation of the iconic Barry Island Pleasure Park, and I know that he has done all he can to bring parties together, and find a solution to a long running saga. He believes in business being able to transform the prospects on Barry Island and create jobs and boost the economy.

Alun is a fantastic MP for Barry and the Vale of Glamorgan, and I am writing to tell people that I am supporting him again in 2015. I have lived in Wolfe Close for 40 years and have yet to see a Labour councillor – but my MP regularly visits the area and listens to real people.

Peter Woodford, Barry

## Best for rural Vale

**Our local MP Alun has taken up so many issues in the Vale of Glamorgan – from Peterston Super Ely right across to Ewenny he has fought battles on behalf of residents to achieve a positive outcome for the community.**

The rural Vale has challenges around housing, and he instinctively understands the strength of feeling in a local village – and reflects that in his actions.

I know that if I call the office of Alun Cairns, then my views on any subject matter will be heard, considered and acted upon. He is a true champion of the local community, and I have no doubt many readers share this opinion.

Elizabeth Wills, Peterston Super Ely

## Top notch service from top notch MP

I'm writing to highlight the fact that our MP Alun Cairns has been a wonderful support for me personally and gave me great assistance in helping me overcome a major issue. From the moment I approached him, I was confident that he understood and had a genuine concern.

It is my opinion that he went beyond the call of duty in helping me, and I regularly see him in Llantwit Major meeting local groups in the community. Thank you, Alun.

Mr G Smith, Llantwit Major

## MP has my support

**I'm writing to give my support to Alun Cairns in his campaign to retain his Parliamentary seat.**

He has worked hard to resolve many issues of concern in Llantwit and the Vale and has taken wider issues to Westminster for attention. I wish him every success.

Heather March MBE, Llantwit

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THURSDAY, MARCH 26TH, 2015

Pages 19-21

*Spring into Easter*  
at High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street

**SIX NATIONS:**  
*Who said rugby is boring?*  
BACK PAGE COMMENT - PAGE 44

Pages 27-30

*Spring COWBRIDGE Feature*

British Summer Time starts at 2am this Sunday.  
Remember to put your clocks forward one hour

## HOW'S THIS FOR PEDAL POWER?



**ABOVE:**  
Pupils from Cefn Cribwr Primary School were among more than 20 local schools taking part in The Big Pedal, and they enjoyed a scooter skills session and a visit recently from Coun Gary Thomas, the Mayor of BCBC; Coun Huw David, cabinet member for children and young people; and Huw Irranca-Davies, Ogmere MP.

## TOWIE in Porthcawl?

EXPECT to see Porthcawl on the television soon, after the cast of TOWIE (The Only Way is Essex) were spotted in the town.

Members of the cast were reported to be filming in The Rose and Crown pub, Nottage, and horse riding scenes at the beach have also been filmed. See next week's GEM for more.

## Porthcawl to benefit from £1m revamp at harbour

THE regeneration of Porthcawl's harbour area is to continue with the restoration of the Pilot Lookout Tower, Customs House and former Knight's Arms public house – at a total cost of £1 million.

The landmark buildings will all be restored to their former glory and brought back into use, following the launch of the Porthcawl Townscape Heritage Initiative.

Heritage Lottery Funding, together with contributions from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) and Cadw, is making more than £1m available for the overall scheme.

The council will work with building owners and local organisations on the sensitive repair and restoration of historic premises, structures and open spaces, using traditional materials and skills.

The iconic Grade II Listed Pilot Lookout Tower will be given replacement windows, doors, roofing and the external staircase will also be repaired.

Work on the tower's revamp gets under way this week and it has also been confirmed that the building is

to transfer from BCBC to the National Coastwatch Institution, who will operate a voluntary coast watch service.

Work also starts this week on the Customs House. The grade II listed building, which has been derelict for some years, is to have its doors, windows and a slate roof reinstated, and will also have its exterior stonework repaired to bring it back to its original condition.

Two other properties – the former Knight's Arms public house and 35 The Esplanade – have also already been identified for improvements.

The Knight's Arms will benefit from a traditional lime render, as well as a slate roof, rebuilt chimneys and traditional windows.

The rear annexes will be demolished, with the property being sub-divided, and rear gardens and parking spaces will also be created.

At 35 The Esplanade, which contains the Sahi Tandoni Indian takeaway, there will be a new slate roof, new windows and doors, as well as traditional signage and a fresh colour scheme.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

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## Spring event in Porthcawl will be a JAMBOREE!

ON Saturday, March 28, Sustainable Wales will be holding a town centre Jamboree in Porthcawl.

This event, backed by Bridgend County Borough Council, will involve traders, community groups, and charities in a vibrant spring-time celebration of everything Porthcawl has to offer.

Activities will include a wide variety of street stalls, street food and a hog roast, music, a live interactive art installation, storytelling, workshops, talks, crafts, demonstrations, information, a Fairtrade marquee, and much more in a bustling, festival atmosphere.

Performances will include, amongst others, members of the Porthcawl Rock Club and local band 'One Time Alive'.

The public will be able to help make a 'Green Woman' from recycled materials with artist Siobhan Grice.

The Farmer's Market will be, as usual, in Awel-yr-Mor Centre and the Craft Market will be in the Y Centre, John Street. Various vintage stalls will be sited along John Street.

Sustainable Wales with the help of Fairtrade Wales' National Coordinator Elen Jones, is organising The Fairtrade Marquee, in James Street from 11am.

Fairtrade Fun - Miri Masnach Deg will feature short Fair Trade stories in English and Welsh, on the themes of cocoa and bananas,

including 'Charlie and Lola', 'The banana who refused to turn yellow', and 'Juliana's bananas.'

There will also be craft activities including colouring and badge-making, free chocolate for young children, a quiz, a cocktail demo and later a marquee for adults selling Sustainable Wales's special recipe Buck's Fizz and Rose Berry Bliss.

The Green Room, above SUSSÉD, at 5 James Street, will offer two talks from 2pm, including 'The importance of bees and beekeeping', and 'Tools for Self Reliance'.

BEE Fruitful's, Jon Milgate, will provide an empty hive and beekeeping equipment (suit, smoker, etc). The public will 'walk through the hive', learning about the different bees, their roles and lifespan.

The talk will also look at flight, forage, what's available to bees in the area, why bees are important, and why they are under threat.

There will be photos opportunities, so people can have a 'hands-on', informal experience, rather than just sit and listen.

From 3pm we will also learn from John Hanson about the Tools For Self Reliance charity and its relevance to current situations in Africa. The talk will be illustrated by examples of work undertaken by the local group.

For more information, call 01656 783962 or go to <http://www.sustainablewales.org.uk/porthcawl/>. MM



## LOCAL PUPILS TURN OUT FOR RICHARD'S 'LAVENDER WALK'

ON Sunday, March 22, a group of 120 Porthcawl Comprehensive pupils and staff completed a walk from Candleston, near Merthyr Mawr, to the Prince of Wales public house at Ton Kenfig - to raise funds for Pancreatic Cancer UK.

The walk was organised by assistant head boy, Richard Price, along with his fellow 'Head Team' members. Sadly, Richard recently lost his mother, Sian Smith, to the disease after a very brave fight.

He called it the 'Lavender Walk' because it was her favourite flower, her favourite colour and also

because of its strong connotations with the charity Pancreatic Cancer UK.

About 100 pupils supported their friend by walking the 10-12 miles or so, which took about four hours, collecting money as they went. They were joined by many teachers, staff and friends of the school who also wanted to show their support.

At about the halfway point, walkers briefly stopped for refreshments kindly provided at the Hi-Tide by Mr Geoff Dower.

They then continued along the coast and on to the Prince of Wales where, as well as being treated to an extremely warm welcome, the group were rewarded with an abundance of sandwiches which everyone was more than ready for!

PD Travel from Pyle even donated their fare from ferrying pupils down to Candleston, which was extremely charitable of them.

On the day, the 'Lavender Walk' raised £1,600 for Pancreatic Cancer UK and funds are still coming in. Thank you to everyone who donated so generously! NE

## Women's Aid to merge with Calan DVS

BRIDGEND Women's Aid Group (BW) is to merge with Calan DVS, a Neath-based domestic violence and abuse charity, from May.

The merger highlights the commitment to develop high quality support services for individuals and families experiencing domestic violence and abuse, best achieved through an integrated approach.

In addition to the merger, Calan DVS has also been awarded the contract to develop and deliver an integrated

domestic abuse service by Bridgend County Borough Council starting in May, for a period of three years.

Calan DVS CEO, Rhian Bowen-Davies said: "The merger with BWA and the local authority contract provides us with an exciting opportunity to work in partnership with complementary organisations and agencies in the Bridgend area."

"Our aim is to further develop existing and new services to improve outcomes for individuals and families experiencing domestic violence and abuse."

Calan DVS was formed by the merging of Neath and Lliw Valley Women's Aid in 2012, the first merger of Women's Aid groups in Wales.

In 2014, Calan DVS merged with Brecknock Women's Aid Group.

Tracey Thomas, chair of trustees at BWA stated: "Bridgend Women's Aid has established core domestic abuse services throughout Bridgend, and has built up specialised knowledge and experience of working with other agencies, and supporting those experiencing domestic abuse in those areas."

"We are delighted to be working with Calan DVS on this merger to provide long term sustainability for those services."

and the Raspberry Pi micro-computer.

Despite the high tech, complex nature of its business Sony UKTEC is committed to strengthening ties with the local community, encouraging schools and groups to use its facilities.

Sony UKTEC has worked with Ospreys' Rugby and Cardiff City Football Club to fund multimedia family learning zones and engage in community school and education programmes to promote understanding of different industries.

The MP said: "Sony UK Technology Centre has put itself at the heart of our community, and in addition to its role in our local economy, Sony UKTEC's contributions to the education of young people and to the environment have been outstanding."

## 'Cost of leaving EU' - a reader's view

WITH reference to a recent letter from Mr Bradshaw, he has knocked the EU without giving substantive alternatives.

Government by politicians answerable to their electorates? I assume he means the discredited first past the post system under which it is estimated that 60 per cent of UK votes cast have no impact on the outcome of a general election whereas every vote cast in an EU election counts because of proportional representation and, of course MEPs are, I understand, answerable to their electorate.

On the common fisheries policy, this was introduced to try to halt further rapid decline in fishing stocks in EU waters, not to destroy the livelihood of UK fishermen. The EU now regulates the size of mesh in fishing nets, which allows young and immature fish to escape, so all fish taken are landed.

Farmers grow whatever is suitable for their land and what attracts the biggest EU farming subsidy. Judging from the number of solar farm applications in the Vale, solar panels currently seem to be the best crop. Farmers will

do what is in their economic interest.

As for joining with EFTA, it consists of Norway, Switzerland and those two other economic powerhouses, Iceland and Lichtenstein.

Through a treaty function called the European Economic Area EFTA countries have access to the EU, but only provided that they abide by all relevant EU regulations, including CE marking.

The UK would still be bound by all EU trading regulations if we left the EU and rejoined EFTA, but we would have no power to influence those regulations.

The EU has a major role in the formulation of trading policy in the World Trade Organisation. Everyone wants to trade with the EU and we benefit greatly from this fact.

The UN FAO was founded in 1945 and the UK is a member in its own right as well as helping to co-ordinate EU involvement.

The UN ECE was founded in 1947 and again the UK, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, has its own representation in this organisation.

David Kennett, Barry.

## Plans for a new primary school are mooted

BRIDGEND County Borough Council is to submit a series of business cases for a new school in Pencoed which could potentially accommodate primary and nursery-age children on the same site.

The authority says it will be working closely with parents, teachers, governors and the local community on proposals for a new school that will meet the needs of Pencoed pupils in the 21st Century.

"The current school buildings were built in the early 1900s for separate infant, junior and secondary provision, but their layout is preventing necessary adaptations from being made."

"Subject to approval of the business cases and funding agreements by the Welsh Government, it is hoped that a new school could be built on the existing site, to

potentially open in 2017," said Coun Mike Gregory, cabinet member for resources.

"While I must stress that these proposals are in the very early stages, we are hoping to gain approval from the Welsh Government for a new facility that can cater for the needs of Pencoed pupils in the 21st century."

"The current school is on a split site and children sometimes have to cross a busy main road to get to their classes, but if we get the go-ahead for this project, we will hopefully be able to incorporate everything on the same site."

Local member for Penprysg, Coun Alexander Owen, added: "I am delighted that the council is working on these proposals, which subject to the necessary business case approval and funding agreements being reached, would be the biggest improvement in my ward for many, many years."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### LibDem surgery

WELSH LibDem AM for South Wales West, Peter Black, will hold advice surgeries this Friday, March 27 in Pencoed library from 2pm to 3pm, and Porthcawl library from 3.30pm to 4.30pm. No appointment necessary.

### Antiques fair

ANTIQUA and collector's fair, Cottrell Park Golf Resort, St Nicholas, Vale of Glamorgan on Saturday, April 4. Refreshments available to purchase in the clubhouse. Entry to fair £1; open 10am to 4pm.

### HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL APRIL 2)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 - 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
26 Thur	10.31	8.8	22.52	8.5
27 Fri	11.21	8.1	23.49	7.9
28 Sat			12.32	7.6
29 Sun	02.12	7.4	14.59	7.3
30 Mon	03.41	7.6	16.22	7.6
31 Tues	04.49	8.0	17.17	8.2
01 Wed	05.36	8.5	17.59	8.7
02 Thur	06.19	9.0	18.39	9.1

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

We abide by the code of practice upheld by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). This contains provisions for issues such as accuracy.

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## Sony shortlisted for responsible business champion award

NOMINATED by Omore MP, Huw Irranca-Davies, Sony UK Technology Centre (UKTEC) has been recognized nationally for being a responsible business champion, through its environmental work, strong ties with local communities, and implementing successful training and apprenticeship programmes.

One of ten companies shortlisted across the UK, Sony UKTEC uses modern manufacturing techniques to produce both Sony and non-Sony products to exacting standards, including the only high definition Sony camera units built outside Japan

and the Raspberry Pi micro-computer. Despite the high tech, complex nature of its business Sony UKTEC is committed to strengthening ties with the local community, encouraging schools and groups to use its facilities.

Sony UKTEC has worked with Ospreys' Rugby and Cardiff City Football Club to fund multimedia family learning zones and engage in community school and education programmes to promote understanding of different industries.

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# 'LASTING MEMORIAL TO A CHILD IS SO IMPORTANT' Young couple help others after their devastating loss

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

**Losing a child is the most devastating event a parent can face – but one grief-stricken young couple in Barry have been able to help those in a similar plight.**

Paul Adamson of The Jam Fund discovered through his partner Denise that Sinead Lewis and Andrew Townsend had lost their baby Annabelle at just one day old and needed help to provide a fitting memorial stone.

Paul told The GEM: "As a parent who has lost two children, I understand how important it is to have a lasting memorial to a child."

"Memorial stones can be very expensive and the charity was pleased to donate funds for the purchase of a fitting headstone for Annabelle."

In fact when Paul got in touch with Sinead and

Andrew, he realised his son Sam had played football with Andrew at the age of 15.

Sinead, Andrew and their family wanted to thank The Jam Fund for its help. The charity was founded in memory of Paul's son Jamie, and has raised £400,000 over 10 years, helping hundreds of young people suffering from serious illnesses and supporting their families at their hour of greatest need.

Paul said: "Sinead, Andrew and their family organised a quiz night and raffle at Sully Sports and Social Club on Saturday, March 14."

"The event raised £2,100 – as I pointed out, effectively covering the cost of the original headstone."

"But since then, I've been contacted by two further local families who have sadly experienced similar, tragic events in losing babies."

"Both families had



**LEFT:** Sinead and Andrew (centre) and their family hand over the cheque to Paul Adamson (left) of The Jam Fund.

raised approximately half of the amount necessary for a memorial, so thanks to Sinead, Andrew and their family, The Jam Fund has donated the other half.

"In this way the family directly assisted the other two families, which I feel is very fitting. I think it is great that this young couple felt strong enough to help."

"I would also like to thank the management and staff of Sully Sports and Social Club for their kind support and to everyone who supported the evening."

"I also want to thank everyone in Barry and across the Vale for continuing to help The Jam Fund, including businesses who host a collecting box."

Andrew and Sinead want to thank Sully Sports and Social Club, Atlantic Way Cross Fit, Rhose and District Social Club, local businesses and individuals who generously provided raffle prizes towards the fundraising evening, and everyone who attended it and made contributions.

For more on The Jam Fund go to: [www.jamfund.co.uk/](http://www.jamfund.co.uk/); or email: [jamfund@sky.com](mailto:jamfund@sky.com).

## Spring concert



**WORKING up an appetite for their spring concert, Cor Bro Ogwr choristers gathered for their annual dinner at the Fairways Hotel, Porthcawl; sparkling chandeliers reflected the light-hearted atmosphere as the choir and friends enjoyed an excellent meal.**

The next concert, taking place on April 11 at All Saints' Church, Porthcawl, will have a topical theme: 'Music for the Six Nations' celebrates pieces from all six countries.

The concert begins at 7.30pm; tickets £10 at the door or telephone 01656 653326.

## Question time for election candidates

THE charity, Sustainable Wales, is organising a 2015 general election question time at the Y Centre, 25 John Street, Porthcawl, CF36 3AP, at 7.30pm on Tuesday, April 14. The election takes place on May 7.

It will be chaired by Bruce Kennedy, ex-chairman of Sustainable Wales, and a former journalist and Head of Programmes for HTV.

Representatives of Labour, Conservative, Liberal Democrat, Plaid Cymru, Green and UKIP are invited to speak for two minutes maximum on why people in the Bridgend constituency

should vote for them. This will be followed by questions through the Chair.

The six prospective parliamentary candidates have all been invited to represent their parties.

Questions for consideration can be delivered to Sustainable Wales by email or signed letter to 5 James Street, Porthcawl, CF36 3EP; [info@sustainablewales.org.uk](mailto:info@sustainablewales.org.uk).

No question can be considered after noon, Saturday, April 11.

Entrance is free to the public, but the charity will be making a collection.

For more information, contact Robert Minhnick [robertm@phonecoop.co.uk](mailto:robertm@phonecoop.co.uk) or 01656 773627.

## Carnival plans are under way

**PORHCRAWL** Buckaneers will be organising the annual Porthcawl Carnival on Saturday, July 18.

The theme for this year is 'Science Fiction' and this includes all types of science fiction including children's stories.

For float entries, the Buckaneers will supply transport and the driver. Please ask for an application form.

For walker entries, let the organisers know your theme. Ask for an application form.

To take a stall at Porthcawl Rugby Club, local organisations and groups should contact, text or phone 07900494386, or email: [marlowk@sky.com](mailto:marlowk@sky.com).

For more information, visit the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/events/153824324807909>.

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## Legion's visit to National Memorial

THE Bridgend branch of the Royal British Legion are organising a trip on Tuesday, June 16. Anyone interested should contact Andrew Reekie on 01656 669988 before March 31.

## Paying rent but your landlord refuses to maintain your property?



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# MP JOINS THE CALL... Let's all vote for the Alzheimer's Society in 2015!

ON March 17, Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon joined over 200 other MPs and representatives from Alzheimer's Society in Westminster, to meet people with dementia and commit to support those affected by the condition.

Mrs Moon supported Alzheimer's Society's general election campaign that is calling for more people to get the dementia diagnosis they need and for everyone to be properly supported afterwards.

The MP said: "We all have a part to play in improving the lives of people living with dementia. There are around 1,163 people living with the condition in the Bridgend constituency - and many more who are in regular contact with family and friends with the condition. It is an issue we absolutely cannot afford to ignore."

Alzheimer's Society campaigners were in Westminster to urge MPs to make this election memorable for all those affected by dementia.

The charity is striving to ensure that more people get a diagnosis



and the support they need, that there is a doubling of spending on dementia research and that communities are encouraged to become dementia friendly to ensure people with dementia can live full and active lives.

While in Westminster, Alzheimer's Society supporter Shelagh Robinson (73), who was diagnosed with dementia five years ago, delivered a petition with 67,375 signatures to the Prime Minister.

The petition calls for

everyone diagnosed with dementia to have access to a dementia adviser or support worker - a named contact who can help them come to terms with the diagnosis and guide them through the complex health and social care system.

George McNamara, head of policy and public affairs at Alzheimer's Society said: "Dementia is the biggest health and care challenge our country faces - one that all of society must respond to. By the end of the next parliament more than a million people will be living with dementia. There is unlikely to be a family in the country that is not affected."

"We are pleased to have been able to engage with over 200 MPs in one day. Madeleine Moon MP has a huge influence in Bridgend constituency and we hope she will use this opportunity to take action and improve the lives of people living with dementia."

"2015 is set to be an important year for politics - but together let's also make it an historical year for people with dementia."

To find out more about Alzheimer's Society, visit [www.alzheimers.org.uk](http://www.alzheimers.org.uk).

## Charity walk for local school

GERALD Nick McCarthy and Kevin Ellis have chosen Ysgol Bryn Castell as their 'Just Giving' charity this year.

The walk, which takes place on Sunday, April 5, costs £5 to enter and starts at Penybont Lifeguard Station. Walkers should meet at 10.45am for an 11am start.

Welsh rugby international Rhys Webb

will be sending the walkers on their way with other local internationals also attending. The walk is to Dunraven Castle in Southerndown and back to Ogmere-By Sea - approximately six miles distance and is two hours long.

Refreshments will be provided for walkers at Bridgend Athletic RFC.

To donate, log onto the 'Just Giving' Page. Contact the school for further details on 01656 815595.

# Bridgend school entrepreneur takes home a national honour



Young entrepreneur, Myia Jones, collects her award.

MYIA JONES, an aspiring entrepreneur from a Bridgend primary school took a top award today

(Thursday March 19) in an all-Wales contest held at the Senedd to find the emerging business talent of future years.

A group of 9 - 11-year-olds from St Mary & St Patrick's RC School were taking part in the final of the popular Enterprise Troopers contest, set up by the Welsh Government to encourage youngsters from an early age to experience the exhilaration of taking their business ideas to market.

The pupils pitted their skills against teams from 15 other primary schools. Myia took the Star Trooper award for her part in the group's classroom enterprise which took inspiration from the 'make do and mend' culture of Britain during the Blitz, and made products to sell from recycled materials.

She received the award after the team had its ideas and track record evaluated by a panel of practising entrepreneurs who were looking for sharp ideas, delivered with a strong competitive edge. Enterprise Troopers is open at

regional level to primary school pupils aged from five to eleven, while the national final is contested by Key Stage 2 pupils aged from nine to eleven.

Winners of the competition were announced by Minister for Economy, Science and Transport, Edwina Hart who said: "Entrepreneurship is at the heart of Wales' strategy for future competitiveness. As a nation we need to conceive quality ideas and build them into imaginative, ambitious and successful businesses and that process starts in our classrooms at an early age."

"As such I am very encouraged not only by the talent on show today but by the sheer appetite these young people have for business."

This was supported by Glenda Jones, who runs her own training and marketing consultancy and heads the Enterprise Troopers judging panel. She said: "Wales needs a strong culture of self-employment and entrepreneurship in

order to progress and compete, so this contest plants the seeds early and switches younger children on to the idea that one day they could set up their own enterprises."

"Standards were phenomenal from all finalists so it was an extremely difficult task for judges. We're constantly surprised and delighted by the ideas, enthusiasm and determination we encounter when primary school pupils get the chance to work together to form classroom enterprises."

"They are highly motivated by the idea of creating and selling their own products and services. That's something we need to nurture and encourage," she added.

The national final at the Senedd was attended by the eye-catching Enterprise Troopers, who have spent several months touring primary schools and encouraging learners to set up enterprises and test out their business ideas and skills.

## WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT AND WHERE?

Mr Jeff Harris - 44 Dol Street, Cefn Cribwr - Rear single storey extension and balcony.  
Mr Robert Bence - 14 Glynbridge Gardens, Bridgend - Extension of existing bungalow to form new bedroom, ensuite, dining room and utility.  
Collingwood Rigby LLP - 8 Bank Buildings, Bridgend Industrial Estate - Remove existing glazing to front elevation and install new clear glazed shopfront screen.

Mr Alan Mallett - Ar Graig, Laleston - Convert six stables to two self-contained holiday let units.  
Persimmon Homes West Wales - Parc Derwen (land parcel R9), Bridgend - Residential development of 39 dwellings.  
BDW Trading - Parc Tyn y Coed Development, Sarn - Non material amendment to planning approval.

Mrs Jaime Lewis - 37 Graham Avenue, Pen-y-Fai - Change of rear roof design and side, rear elevations to planning approval; P/14/767/FUL.  
Ms Claire parsons - 46 Oaklands Road, Bridgend - Two storey out-house.  
Maes Glas Vets Limited - Church Acre, Heol Treth, Village Farm Industrial Estate - Proposed single storey extension to existing veterinary surgery.

Biotech Services International Ltd - Unit 2120 Central Park, Western Avenue, Bridgend Industrial Estate - Installation of external canopies above vehicular doors to Unit 2120.  
Taylor Wimpey South Wales - Areas R10 and R11, Parc Derwen, Coity - Non material amendment  
P/09/547/RES, removal of bay window to plot 281.

Mr David Hubbard - 73 High Street, Laleston - Remove condition 5 of 13/867/FUL relating to the erection of 1.8m high fence around balcony.  
Mr E D Jones - 34 John

## An evening with Julian Lloyd Webber



STORYTELLING and live music feature at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl on Thursday, April 9 at 7.30pm when cellist Julian Lloyd Webber will present clips of himself performing and chatting with world-famous artists he's worked with - including Nigel Kennedy, Elton John, his brother Andrew Lloyd Webber and Yehudi Menuhin.

He will be joined by his wife and fellow cellist Jaxin Lloyd Webber, and pianist Pam Chowhan, to perform works by his brother, Rachmaninov, Fauré and Bach.

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## CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

# Jail for Bridgend man after breaching his restraining order

**A MAN has been jailed for 16 months at Cardiff Crown Court for breach of a restraining order.**

Wayne Howe (29) was told by Recorder Greg Bull QC: "You are a danger to women in your present frame of mind."

Howe of Heol-y-Nant, Bridgend, had been committed to sentence by Bridgend Magistrates for the breach of a restraining order.

The Recorder said Howe carried out a campaign against a previous girlfriend because of excessive jealousy.

"It was plain that woman didn't want anything to do with you, and a report says you are a danger to women with whom you have had relationships. You won't let go."

He continued: "You have one of the worst records for breaching restraining orders I have seen. Prison does not deter you."

He said it was necessary to protect the public and his former girlfriends.

Prosecutor Nuhu Gobir said that last November, a restraining order was made against Howe preventing him in any way from contacting

a woman with whom he had associated, but between November 19 and 27, he sent her several Facebook messages and threatened to end his life.

She asked him to leave her alone and on one day, he sent her 32 messages and she also saw him near her home.

Mr Gobir, he denied the allegations. He was said to have previous convictions for harassment, causing actual bodily harm, burglary, a public order act offence, causing criminal damage and a breach of a restraining order.

His solicitor, Rhodri Chudleigh, said: "In the past, he has received many sentences for harassment. He obviously has a problem."

"He also has issues of low self esteem and is prone to obsessive behaviour. Three years

ago, he attempted to take his life.

"He recognises the risk he presents".

He was jailed for a further 16 weeks to run consecutively to the 16 month sentence for a breach of a suspended sentence for harassment.

## Porthcawl will benefit from £1 million revamp



The Lookout Tower.



Custom House.

**(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)**

Coun Charles Smith, BCBC's cabinet member for strategic change, said: "The restoration of these historic waterfront buildings will complement the exciting work planned for the nearby Jennings Building, and is another important step in Porthcawl's overall regeneration."

"We are extremely proud of our heritage and this scheme enables us to bring these vacant historic buildings back to their former glory, celebrating the distinctiveness of local architecture. As well as undertaking conservation work to these buildings, we're looking to find new uses for them too, so it's really positive news that the National Coastwatch Institution will be taking on the Lookout Tower, and I understand that they have already recruited a committee and a list of volunteers."

"That's exactly what we want to see, and we hope to announce further new uses for other buildings in the area soon. The Townscape Heritage Initiative will also involve a study of the wider town's heritage and character, and local people's knowledge will be vital to this, so please look out for any ways you can get involved."

Nationally, the Townscape Heritage Initiative programme has helped to restore 22 town centres since it was introduced in 1998, and Bridgend county borough is the only local authority area in Wales to have been awarded five schemes – two in Bridgend, two in Maesteg, and now one in Porthcawl.

Any Porthcawl building owners and organisations who would like to find out more about the Porthcawl Townscape Initiative should contact Claire Hamm or Sue Tomlinson at BCBC on 01656 643164 or 01656 643175.

# Restaurant is prosecuted after food hygiene offences found

**THE New Garden Chinese restaurant in Pandry Road, Aberkenfig, has been prosecuted, a further Environmental Health Officers from Bridgend Borough Council uncovered poor food hygiene practices.**

During inspections carried out in March 2014, officers found that food was not being handled, prepared or stored safely, posing a risk of cross contamination and food poisoning. Large quantities of dirty crockery had also been left unwashed from the night before.

Further issues identified included chicken satay being drained in a colander on top of an open drain on the kitchen floor, while bowls of raw meat were on the draining board used to polish cutlery, and food was found on the floor of the chiller.

Cooked rice, raw beef and dirty dishes were also being stored in the same container which had not been effectively cleaned between uses.

After being prosecuted by the council, the restaurant's manager Mr Moon Tong Yip pleaded guilty to seven food hygiene offences in Pontypridd Magistrates Court on March 13 and was fined £4,900. In addition, the head chef Mr Shiu Kwan Lee pleaded guilty to eight charges and was fined £5,600.

Each defendant was also required to pay costs of £1,000 and a £70 victim surcharge.

Coun Phil White, Bridgend County

Borough Council's food preparation and cleanliness do not cause any health risks."

Following the inspections which revealed poor practices in March 2014, the New Garden worked closely with the council's public protection department and has made a significant effort to improve food hygiene standards.

"Cases such as this one are never nice to hear about, but residents can feel reassured that Environmental Health Officers regularly inspect local food businesses to check that the standards of

## 'STOP AT LOLLIPOP!'



**DRIVERS in the Maesteg area are being warned that 'stop means stop' after a worrying increase in near misses involving schoolchildren at Cwmfelin Primary School.**

Officers are reminding motorists who fail to stop for the 'Lollipop', that they face hefty penalties, following a reported rise in incidents by the school over the last few months.

PCSO Julie Banks said: "We would remind motorists that it is essential to drive safely at all times. It is particularly important for drivers to obey instructions given by lollipop patrols close to schools."

## Suspended sentence for Bridgend man who grew cannabis

**A £20,000-a-year mobile crane operator who grew cannabis plants behind a partition in his garage, has been jailed for eight months, the sentence suspended for 18 months at Cardiff Crown Court.**

In addition, Carl Humphrey (46), was fined £1,000 and ordered to pay £250 costs.

Humphrey, of Heol-yr-Ysgol, Bridgend, admitted producing cannabis.

Prosecutor Nuhu Gobir said that last October, the police searched the defendant's home, then in the Litchard area. He told officers: "It's all in the garage".

In his garage, they discovered 27 cannabis plants growing with light and watering facilities. A set of scales was

nearby.

In the garage, he had erected a partition wall to prevent anyone from seeing the plants.

When interviewed by the police, Humphreys made no comment.

The plants, said Mr Gobir, had a potential yield of 84 grammes with a potential value of up to £20,250.

Barrister Kevin Seal said Humphrey had spinal problems and sometimes chronic depression.

"He realises that he faces a possible prison sentence and cannabis is not the way forward for pain relief."

He said he was very proud of his employment.

"He has the full support of his family, who do not condone his behaviour."

Recorder Gregory Bull QC said Humphrey had pleaded guilty from the start and had assisted the police.

## Porthcawl woman stole from her own grandmother

**A MOTHER of two stole cash from her grandmother, Cardiff Crown Court has been told.**

Angharad Howells (25) of Adare Street, Pontycymer, was told by Recorder Greg Bull QC: "This was a spiteful, mean offence. She has helped you for many years, but you have betrayed her twice. It was a terrible breach of trust."

Howells admitted a charge of fraud and theft.

Prosecutor John Warren said the victim was her widowed, 80-year-old grandmother, Maureen Howells.

The defendant and her children would sometimes stay at her home in Porthcawl.

In the past, said Mr Warren, Howells had

been convicted of stealing cheques from her grandmother.

In January, Mrs Howells felt unwell and asked her grand-daughter to obtain some cash for her using a credit card.

A few days later, said Mr Warren, it was discovered there was no money in the grandmother's account and a total of £749 had been taken.

The matter was reported to the police and the defendant claimed she had received permission to take the money.

She also claimed that the complaint by her grandmother was "maliciously motivated."

Mrs Howells later told the police the theft had left a "very large hole in her savings".

The defendant's

solicitor, Adam Sharp, said: "It has to be accepted there was a serious breach of trust in the past."

"Regrettably, temptation was put in her way. There is general remorse and shame and her motive was considerable personal debts."

He said at one point, bailiffs had gone to her home, she had suffered prolonged depression and attempted to take her own life.

He said she was able to offer restitution within a week. She was jailed for six months, the sentence suspended for two years, made subject to a supervision order for a year, and ordered to pay compensation of £749.50 plus £250 costs and a victim surcharge of £80.



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# Mayor's Citizenship Awards celebrate local heroes (and heroines) in the county borough

**PORTHCAWL** mum, Linnia David, was given an early Mother's Day present after her daughters Angharad and Megan nominated her to receive a Mayor's Citizenship Award, for her voluntary work with the local carers' charity, Crossroads.

Linnia was part of a small group who set up the charity in 1993 and has been caring for carers ever since. She was one of the local heroes recognised in Bridgend County Borough Council's annual Mayor's Citizenship Awards, organised to reward outstanding volunteers, charity champions and other individuals and groups that are making a positive impact in local communities.

Another award winner was Rachel Davies, known as 'Ray'. Countless abandoned animals owe their wellbeing to Ray, who has been a stalwart member of the Maesteg Animal Welfare Society for 30 years. The society started off with two collection boxes and now operates two shops as well as a market stall, to raise funds to help re-home animals and support people who are struggling to pay their vet bills.

Volunteers from the Garw Valley Community First Responders were among the group winners, for the rapid response service they offer for residents who have made a 999 call. The volunteers often find themselves facing difficult and upsetting circumstances, and provide a 24/7 service without any remuneration for the service they provide.

The Llynfi Valley Foodbank Group, co-ordinated by Alan and Pauline Ashmore, also won an award in recognition of their amazing acts of kindness to stop vulnerable people in Maesteg and Caerau from going hungry at a time of need.

Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Coun Gary Thomas who presented the awards, said: "Each year, the residents of Bridgend County Borough are asked to nominate those who have made a real difference in their communities. The awards give us a chance to say thanks and give them the appreciation that they deserve. Congratulations to each and every winner."

The other individual award winners at the ceremony were:

**Alisha Barron:** Inspirational Alisha changed the lives of children in North Cornelly after she started her own dance school at the age of just 17. She also set up a fundraising committee so that all of the children would be given dance outfits at no cost to their families. Three years on, she now teaches up to 100 children at Dance Maniax, training dancers who compete across the country.

**Dulcie Bowen:** Committed and selfless fundraiser Dulcie has been a volunteer with the Maesteg branch of Cancer Research for 32 years. Dulcie, who is now in her eighties, still takes part in the annual street collection and contributes to the overall efforts of the committee.

**Roger Burnell:** Roger is a BAFTA award-winning film director. A fellow of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, he runs 'It's My Shout Productions', which has given nearly 1,000 young people a kick-start into the creative industries over the past decade. He was nominated by former Porthcawl mayor, Barbara Stubbs.

**Claire Edmunds:** Volunteer Claire set up 'Special Families' in 2014 to support the families of children with special needs in the Llynfi Valley. She runs informal coffee mornings where people can come together to share stories, advice and successes.

A tireless fundraiser, Claire also runs leisure activities for the group's children and siblings as well as activities for carers too.

**Joe Elliott:** Exemplary pupil Joe, organised the Poppy Appeal at Oldcastle Primary School, which helped to raise a fantastic £367.52. He gave up every lunchtime and playtime for a week to organise the school shop in aid of the appeal and even played 'The Last Post' on his trombone at the school's Armistice assembly.

**Ray Evans:** Ray has recently retired after more than 25 years of service as a volunteer trustee and treasurer of Westward Community Centre.

A hands-on committee member, he has taken a special interest in social activities for senior citizens, and has always been on hand to help groups use the facility.

**Dai Jenkins:** The role of governor is a serious responsibility and a major commitment, and Dai has volunteered as a chair of governors at not one but two local schools over a period of 25 years, making a significant contribution to the local community.

**Brian Morgan:** Nantfyllon Primary School caretaker Brian is an exceptional individual who goes far beyond the call of duty for the school's pupils. He is a school disco DJ and a sometime Santa when the real one is unavailable, and he also gives his time to organise school graduation ceremonies and sports days.

Brian has also adapted the school so that it can meet the needs of vulnerable children.

**Lana Morgan:** The driving force behind the restoration of Hope Church in Porthcawl, Lana has raised thousands of pounds over the last three years. Her commitment and enthusiasm for rejuvenating the church has never wavered, despite the enormous challenge she undertook.

**Natalie Murphy:** A prominent local author and columnist, Natalie makes a big contribution to Bridgend and the surrounding area as the secretary and organiser of the Bridgend Civic Trust and Bridgend History Society.

**Janice Parkinson:** Having volunteered with the Porthcawl YMCA for 25 years, 18 months ago Janice took an unpaid holiday to volunteer at the Bombay YMCA boys' home. She also recently resurrected the Porthcawl Women's Institute.

**Eira Paskin:** Eira joined the Ogmore Valley Male Voice Choir as assistant accompanist 16 years ago, and has held the position of musical director for 10 years, succeeding in making the choir one of the most popular in the county borough.

She has rarely missed a concert or rehearsal, and has helped the choir raise considerable sums of money for charities and worthy causes.

**Rhiannon Skilton:** Dedicated fundraiser Rhiannon has for many years taken part in concerts at the Grand Pavilion in Porthcawl in aid of cancer charities and young people. Last year she travelled to Nepal to climb in the foothills of the Himalayas to raise funds for Tenovus.

**Russell White:** Ex-Welsh Guardsman Russ became a regular volunteer at the Lifelong Learning Centre in Sarn four years ago, and has helped to keep it open and in top condition ever since.

He is a co-founder of mental health group 'Starfish', and joined in with the effort to establish the Heol Y Mynydd Community Garden.

**Alex Williams:** Always ready to step in and help at short notice, Alex has been a keen fundraiser for Tenovus for a number of years. He took part in a skydive in August 2014, raising in excess of £1,000 for the charity, and is planning a sponsored climb up Mount Kilimanjaro.

The other group award winners were:  
**Michael Banks and Roy Meredith:** Michael and Roy are two remarkable individuals who have contributed a huge amount of time and effort to help stage Maesteg Town Council's annual festival.

They have also held impressive exhibitions in the town hall on the community hospital, industrial heritage and the centenary of the First World War, which have been attended by hundreds of people.

**Curtain Up Youth Theatre Group:** Curtain Up Youth Theatre Group was formed by volunteers Ruth Whelan and Sarah Thomas in the summer of 2000. Fifteen years on it has become a respected group in the local community, an agent for the famous casting organisation Spotlight, and it also offers members the opportunity to study for specialist theatre qualifications.

**Jayne Evans and Julie Morgan:** Twins Jayne and Julie helped to launch the Bryncethin mini and junior rugby section in 2007, and have since signed up over 200 children aged from under-5s up to under-18s. They also help out with the annual Bryncethin Christmas tree gathering as well as the Christmas swims to help fund activities in the village.

**Ogmore Valley Historical and Heritage Society:** Run by local residents, the society has been at the forefront of collating the history and heritage of the Ogmore Valley for the past 15 years, and its journals are sent around the world to ex-pats who want to stay connected with their roots.

**Philip Squire Community Centre Association:** An extensive refurbishment of The Philip Squire Community Centre in Coytrahen was completed in summer 2014, thanks to a dedicated group of volunteers who managed to raise £50,000 in funding.



Alisha Barron.



Alex Williams.



Claire Edmunds.



Joe Elliott.



Lana Morgan.



Dulcie Bowen.



Eira Paskin.

Ogmore Valley  
Historical and Heritage  
Society.

Ray Davies.



Dai Jenkins.



Janice Parkinson.



Ray Evans.



Rhiannon Skilton.



Curtain Up Youth Theatre.



Garw Valley Community Responders.



# Mayor's Citizenship Awards celebrate our local heroes in Bridgend county borough



Linnia David



Jayne Evans and Julie Morgan



Michael Banks and Roy Meredith



Llynfi Valley Foodbank Group



Philip Squire Community Centre



Roger Burnell



Natalie Murphy



Russell White

## SUMMERHOUSE BRIGHTENS UP THE COMMUNITY GARDEN

RESIDENTS at Wales & West Housing's Western Court retirement scheme in Bridgend celebrated the official opening of their summerhouse recently with a visit from Carwyn Jones, AM for Bridgend.

The garden house was built thanks to funding from the Awards for All Wales grant programme, part of the Big Lottery Fund. Builders' merchant Jewson also assisted, supplying the summerhouse at cost price, while local business CJS Electrical gave a significant discount to install the electrics in the structure.

"Since being built, the summerhouse has made a huge difference to the lives of those living at Western Court, providing a communal area for the residents – many of whom live alone – to get together," a spokesperson said.

Resident Cassandra Gibbs said: "The summerhouse means that not only can we gather together in the summer, we can gather together in the winter and have games, bingo and everything. The



Carwyn Jones AM with residents of Western Court.

community spirit here is the best I have ever known, anywhere I have ever lived. I can't say any more than that, it's brilliant."

The Awards for All grant also funded furniture for the summerhouse, with the residents making upholstered storage seats and shelving to store the many accolades they have won for their fantastic work in developing a community garden.

AM Carwyn Jones said: "It was a pleasure to be asked to the official opening. I would particularly like

to pay tribute to residents Jeff and Derek who have worked tirelessly on behalf of the residents. Obtaining the summerhouse is testimony to their endeavours."

Anne Hinchey, Chief Executive of Wales & West Housing, said: "This is a wonderful example of how a community can come together to achieve great things. We hope the summerhouse will provide those living here with the space they need for those all-important social events that will keep this community thriving."

## Get your free Leigh Halfpenny bookmark!

RUGBY fans can now pick up a free Leigh Halfpenny bookmark from the Age Cymru Porthcawl shop to celebrate the Six Nations tournament.

Nia Butler, of Age Cymru, explained: "We're all big rugby fans at Age Cymru and we're overjoyed that our friend Leigh Halfpenny, was in Warren's Gatland's squad for this year's Six Nations."

"Leigh and his granddad Malcolm are fronting a legacies

campaign for Age Cymru and they appear together on these special bookmarks we've produced.

"We're giving these away to people who visit our Age Cymru shops during the Six Nations, but stocks are limited – so pop in and pick up your Leigh Halfpenny bookmark before they're all gone."

The Leigh Halfpenny bookmark is available from: Age Cymru Porthcawl, 37 John Street, Porthcawl, CF36 3AP.



# Hopes for livestock site as council backs group's plan

IT'S all smiles at the moment between Cowbridge and the Vale Council – after the council agreed to continue supporting a local group's plans to retain and revitalise the livestock market, writes PHILIP IRWIN.

It is a far cry from the angry scenes in 2011, when council plans to close the market and build an extra care retirement facility sparked angry protests – including a well-attended march and public meeting.

In the aftermath of that, the Vale market

Action Group (VMAG) put forward plans to keep the market, and to investigate the possibility of building a market hall alongside it, which would be home to farm shops and other suitable businesses.

This week (Monday) the Vale Council cabinet met and decided to continue to support the VMAG's work to redevelop the market, after the cabinet gave their approval to initial plans.

A number of funding hurdles have to be cleared, but the proposal submitted includes a scaled down market to allow space for a new market hall, housing a number of small shops, a community café and covered open space that would sit alongside an older persons' residential development. Provision would also be made for public car parking.

At the meeting, the Vale Council's cabinet agreed that the initial plan has the potential to be developed into a deliverable proposal, and so VMAG have been given a further 12 months to refine their plan and begin to raise the required funds for the scheme.

While a viable proposal is being developed, the council will begin work on marketing the sections of the site proposed for older people's

accommodation and car parking, and ensuring the necessary local infrastructure is in place.

Coun Lis Burnett, the cabinet member for regeneration, commented: "This is a huge leap forward for Cowbridge, not only in the redevelopment of the cattle market, but also in the role of the local community, in driving it forward and in influencing the future direction of their town."

"Local people told us that they did not want to lose their market and that there was an opportunity to develop something for the benefit of the whole town."

"We listened and offered guidance, and they have worked hard to come up with a proposal that appears to have great potential."

"I'm delighted that the council has been able to work with such a proactive group."

"The group now has a year to refine their plan and if that is a success, we will be inviting bids to deliver the remainder of the proposal."

## Festival is getting ready for a Maytime extravaganza

THE organisers of the Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival are gearing up for this year's event – which for the first time will take place in May.

The festival makes a welcome return on Sunday, May 24 and Monday, May 25, and there will be a number of changes!

The festival manager, Polly Wilson, said: "With our move from autumn to spring, this is the ideal time to ring the changes."

"We have addressed feedback and created a further site for ticket-holders which will hold the hot food stalls, a seating area and a performing space for local musicians."

"We hope that this will create a family friendly relaxing hub, although I'm sure the usual queues will occur at the old favourites."

The extra performing space has led the organisers to put out a call to local musicians who would like to showcase their talents.

Polly said: "We are asking local artists of every genre and age to get in touch with sound clips or link to their work."

"We will put in a PA and are offering 30-40 minute slots for them to perform throughout the weekend. It is a great way of widening your audience and perhaps shifting a few CDs."

Full details and the complete line-up can be found on the website [www.cowbridgefoodanddrink.org](http://www.cowbridgefoodanddrink.org).

o submit an audition clip, email a You Tube link to [info@cowbridgefoodanddrink.org](mailto:info@cowbridgefoodanddrink.org) or post a CD to Polly Wilson, c/o Effective Communication, 46-48 Cardiff Road, Llandaff, Cardiff, CF5 2DT.

Tickets for the festival - which cost £5 per day or £8 for the weekend - can be purchased online for the first time with a 10 per cent discount on all pre-sale tickets.

Children, 12 years and under, go free.

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## HENNESSYS' CONCERT

THE Bridgend county civic charity appeals committee and the Mayor of the county borough, Coun Gary Thomas, hold a charity concert: 'An Evening of Musical Splendour', on Friday, March 27, at 7pm in Archbishop McGrath RC High School hall, Brackla, Bridgend.

Special guests are The Hennessys, supported by local artists: Cor Bois Goetre-Hen a'r Cylch; Bridgend County Youth Symphonic Brass; Ieuanid Aelwyd Porthcawl; and Seren Lewis, violinist.

The compere is Mr D Hugh Thomas. Tickets £10; proceeds to Macmillan Cancer Support Bridgend County, Bridend Carers' Centre and The Friends of Bridgend Youth Music.

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# Rotary club's evening for African charity



ON March 2, Rotary Club of Bridgend's International committee put on an international evening, with speakers from Ty Cariat Africa, and guests from Interact at Pencoed Comprehensive School.

The speakers from Ty Cariat were Paul Booth and Harvey Jones. Guests from Interact included Ellie Taylor, Rhian Bateman, Sue Cassidy and the Chair of International Committee, Rtn Judy McCarthy.

Ty Cariat children's home in Namugongo was established in 2003 following a visit by Paul Thomas (chaplain to South Wales Fire and Rescue Service) to the Uganda Fire and Rescue headquarters in Kampala.

His visit coincided with a local fire fighting team's return from an incident where they rescued two babies, who had been dropped into a latrine. Sadly these babies died and Paul shared in the fire crew's distress.

Ty Cariat Africa is a UK-based charity that raises money to help orphans and vulnerable children in sub-Saharan Africa. The aim is to relieve poverty, sickness and distress and to provide access to education amongst orphans and vulnerable children.

The charity has a

partner organisations that promote tracing, re-linking and resettlement of children in their families and extended communities wherever possible.

They believe that all

children have a right to be loved and to be safe from harm. They should have nutritious food, clean water and good healthcare, a right to education and a right to play – to be children.

J McC

## Teenagers' Tenovus shop corner catches judges' eye!

THREE college students from Maesteg have been praised by a Tory regional AM after reaching the Welsh final of the Lloyds Bank Money for Life Competition.

Their idea to create and stock a teenage section in charity shops – C-Bank – caught the imagination of the judges in this national competition.

Suzy Davies recently visited C-Bank and three other teams from Bridgend College, who have been taking part in the challenge which was to come up with ideas to help young people become more savvy with their money management.

The teams – two from the Maesteg campus and two from Pencoed – were supported by Colleges Wales and were among 80 teams from Wales taking part.

Eleven have now been selected to go through to the Welsh

finals in April.

The C-bank students worked with staff at the Tenovus Shop in Maesteg, which allocated them their own area in the shop to sell clothing and trainers which they collected from donors.

The regional AM said she was delighted that the team had been successful in the teeth of tough competition from all over Wales.

She went on: "Splashing cash on clothes is very tempting. These three young men hit on a very good idea to help students and other young people on low incomes to stay in trend for less."

"They managed to get donations of some very desirable items. As the mother of two teenage sons, I know how picky they can be and how expensive some of the on-trend labels are."

"Charity shops can be a treasure trove for all ages but young people's clothing is often donated new or

nearly new because things are outgrown before they can be worn much. Good on them for coming up with this idea and then making it work so effectively."

"They will have some legacy money now to try and keep the scheme going which is good news. I wish them every success in the Welsh finals. The two best projects from that then go onto the UK Final in May."

The other Maesteg-based project was Welsh Upcycling which taught people how to renovate furniture and other items to re-use. The team made a film of how to upcycle items and also ran a workshop to teach the skills needed.

Bridgend Budget Bodies, based at Pencoed, was a project to devise and publish a cook book with simple recipes which students and others could make to save money but still eat nutritious food.

The Swap Shop team, also based in Pencoed,

## 'Recycle from every room!' – call

BCBC has joined forces with Waste Awareness Wales to encourage local residents to see how much waste can be recycled from every room at home.

In most homes, the majority of recyclable materials are generated in the kitchen, whether it be food waste, cardboard and plastic food packaging, or glass bottles and sauce jars, it points out.

However, a lot of rubbish accumulated from every other room can be recycled too, and the council's 'Full House' campaign is reminding residents which items are suitable for their weekly kerbside recycling collections.

Coun Phil White, cabinet member for communities, said: "When you look around the house, it is surprising just how much can be recycled. This campaign is inviting us all to consider what everyday items we could recycle instead of throwing them out for landfill."

"In addition to materials that are suitable for the weekly kerbside collections, a wide variety of items can also be taken to the three local household recycling centres, or you can pay a small fee for large bulky items to be collected from your home."

"Currently, 57 per cent of local waste is recycled, and I'd like to say a big thank you to all residents for their efforts. We



can still do more, though, and taking another look at what can be recycled

around our homes could help us to push that recycling rate even higher."

Residents have been hearing about the council's new 'Full House' recycling campaign at a series of events held in local supermarkets recently.



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# Lobby group says ovarian screening needed in Wales

by GEM REPORTER

## Join 'Big Lunch' for friendship, food and fun!

COMMUNITIES in Bridgend are being invited to join in the UK's biggest annual get together for neighbours, as registrations open for The Big Lunch 2015.

The Big Lunch, now in its seventh year, is an Eden Project initiative aimed at bringing neighbours together to build safer, happier communities. It is funded by the Big Lottery Fund and partnered by Halifax and ASDA.

In 2014, a massive 4.83 million people took part, including 120,000 in Wales. This year the Big Lunch is encouraging people to get together for a day of friendship, food and fun on Sunday, June 7.

Gwion Thorpe, The Big Lunch co-ordinator for Wales, said: "A Big

Lunch is the perfect ice breaker and proves that everyone has something to contribute to the community - whether that's their grandmother's sponge cake recipe, their crafting skills which allow them to create beautiful bunting and table decorations or just their knack for telling a good story.

"It's wonderful how the simple act of sharing lunch together on one day a year can start to change, quite profoundly, how people feel as part of their wider community; fostering a greater sense of place and belonging and helping people feel more included, valued and able to contribute to their community."

Anyone wishing to hold a Big Lunch on June 7 can register online for a free pack; visit [www.thebiglunch.com](http://www.thebiglunch.com).

A former palliative care nurse says there needs to be a screening programme in Wales for ovarian cancer.

The nurse, who cared for dozens of people across the Vale and Cardiff and wishes to remain anonymous, said the provision of tests was overdue.

She told The GEM: "There is screening for breast cancer, cervical cancer and colon cancer and it has saved lives. At present there is no screening for ovarian cancer."

"A total of 7,000 women throughout the United Kingdom are diagnosed with ovarian cancer each year - in Wales 387 are diagnosed, and around 233 lose their lives."

"Sometimes it is because the diagnosis comes too late. The symptoms are persistent bloating, abdominal pain and needing to wee more urgently."

The good news is that a simple test can

identify whether a woman has ovarian cancer.

The former nurse said: "A 'CA125 blood test' is a 'tumour marker' and provides a strong indication. A GP can then refer a woman to a gynaecologist who will do a vaginal scan."

The nurse has two former colleagues who have developed ovarian cancer.

"A group of women is preparing to lobby the Welsh Government about a screening programme. A simple blood test can save lives. We would like to see screening starting at the age of 50."

The issue of ovarian cancer hit the headlines this week after it was revealed that film actress and director Angelina Jolie had chosen to have her ovaries removed. Her mother Marcheline Bertrand died in 2007 after a battle with ovarian cancer.

For more information, go to [www.targetovariancancer.org.uk](http://www.targetovariancancer.org.uk).

# Soroptimists' fashion show raises funds for local charities



Left to right the models, Sian Howell, Clare Hart (president-elect) Bet Francis, Sue (dresser), Jeni Gower Jones, (club president) and Linda Jones, with Samantha B receiving a thank you gift from the organiser, Ann James.

MEMBERS of Soroptimist International Barry and District recently organised a fundraising fashion show and Welsh tea at High Street School, Barry by permission of club member and headteacher, as well as model for the day, Sian Howell.

Other club members also modelled the clothes supplied by Samantha B of Ewenny. Club member Jill Pearson made all the delicious sandwiches and cakes, with fellow members hosting tables.

The event raised £800, which will be donated to the president's charities, which include the Cardiff Institute for the Blind.

Visit [www.soroptimist-gbi.co.uk/barry-and-district](http://www.soroptimist-gbi.co.uk/barry-and-district).

## Health Trust offers funding

LOCAL groups and organisations with ideas to make their communities even better places to live are being invited to apply for funding from the People's Health Trust.

Active Communities is a funding programme for community groups and not-for-profit organisations, with an income of less than £350,000 a year or an average of £350,000 over two years, seeking investment of between £5,000 and £50,000 for projects lasting up to two years.

It is looking for small and local projects, genuinely designed and run by local people.

For further information, call 02076 974021 or email them at [apply@peopleshealthtrust.org.uk](mailto:apply@peopleshealthtrust.org.uk); or [tinyurl.com/nq3262o](http://tinyurl.com/nq3262o).

## ANTIQUES FAIR

ANTIQUE and collector's fair, Cottrell Park Golf Resort, St Nicholas, Vale of Glamorgan on Saturday, April 4. Refreshments available to purchase in the clubhouse. Entry to fair £1; open 10am to 4pm.

## WEST END SHOW FOR JACK!

JACK Dooley (singer/comedian) will be performing at the West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry this Saturday, March 28 from 7pm; tickets £3.

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## Search for old comrade

I AM looking for David Chilton, my National Service comrade from 1960-62, after basic training at Aldershot and then with the Army (RASC) in Aden.

I know he lived at Ogmore Vale and worked in local government at Bridgend, but no trace there. He will be 75 now.

We took leave together in Nairobi and again in Mombasa, Kenya. I am hoping that he is still alive but if not, someone who has knowledge of him will make contact. Thank you.

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# Rail fan brings Red Arrows back to Barry Island

**JOHN BUXTON, Managing Director of the Barry Tourist Railway Tourist Railway has again secured the Red Arrows and the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight for this year's 'Barry at War' weekend, June 20 – 21 centred on Barry Island Railway Station.**

He said: "Last year's 'Barry at War' event was a great success bringing over 40,000 people to Barry Island over our 'Barry at War' weekend. We're determined to make our 2015 event even better to mark the 70th anniversary of the end of World War Two.

"In this regard, the appearance of the World War Two Avro Lancaster Bomber from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight at our event will be particularly poignant".

"We are keen to tell people about the history of Barry – particularly the docks, the railway and the key role

Barry played in the two World Wars. I am proud of the 'Barry at War museum' that has been developed at Barry Island station by our Barry at War volunteer group, headed up by Glenn Booker.

"This will be a key feature of the event, with the re-enactors in period uniforms and dress, together with military and fashion displays, plus vintage stalls giving the station an authentic 1940's atmosphere. There's also a jazz festival going on!

"Barry is a great place and we're so pleased that we have secured the Red Arrows and Avro Lancaster for our 'Barry at War' event to help people understand more about the town's wartime history. xThis year, the Barry Tourist Railway and the Barry at War museum will bring an additional 50,000 visitors to Barry to see and hear that story," John concluded.

For more information, contact John Buxton, Barry Tourist Railway: 01446 748816. email: john.buxton@cambriantransport.com.

## Richard III's Cowbridge connection...

**FOLLOWING his ceremonial burial in Leicester, King Richard III is in the news – but how many people know he had a Cowbridge connection?**

**Local historian Betty Alden has been looking at this, and here she reports on her investigations:**

**I**N 1472, when Duke of Gloucester, Richard married Anne Nevill, daughter of the Earl of Warwick – born in Warwick Castle – and took on the title of Lord of Glamorgan from her inheritance.

Both Richard and Anne were seemingly highly religious and supported the building of many religious establishments, and she was a great landowner in this area.

Lady Anne Nevill is said to have gifted the building of the Llanquian, or south aisle, at Cowbridge Holy Cross church in 1473 (possibly named as a replacement for the former medieval chapel of St James, which is thought to have been at Llanquian on Stalling Down); and also the

tower of Llanblethian church.

Richard was crowned King in 1483, but it was under the title of Lord of Glamorgan that he issued a charter in the following year for Cowbridge.

It instructed the Bishop of Llandaff to ensure that a chaplain was appointed to serve Cowbridge church.

Cowbridge townspeople had petitioned their King to help them in this respect.

That same year of 1484, Richard called his first and only parliament.

His days as King were numbered, the threat of an invasion by Henry Tudor overshadowing his reign.

His queen, Anne, died unexpectedly in March 1485 at the young age of twenty eight (they had just one son), and we now know for sure that Richard was killed at the Battle of Bosworth, Leicester, that August.

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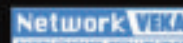
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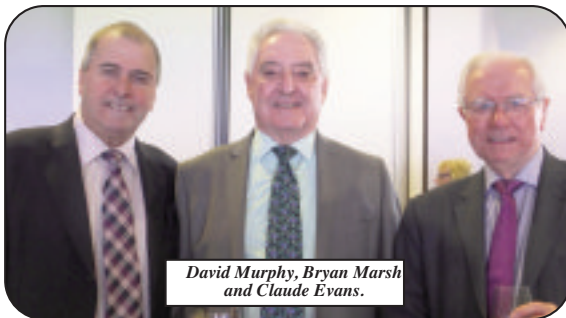
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# TALES OF HER MAJESTY'S SECRET SERVICE!



David Murphy, Bryan Marsh and Claude Evans.



Annie Cooke, Hunter Jarvie, Roxana James and Jeff James.



ABOVE: Marilyn Lingard, David and Molly Owen.

## Report: Derek Morgan Photos : Heather March

**THE combination of speaker, Sir Richard Dearlove, former head of M16, and a talk entitled 'National Security: Past, Present and Future' proved to be a honeytrap for 250 members of the south Wales branch of the English Speaking Union when they met for lunch at the Cardiff City Stadium.**

Sir Richard, who had been recruited into the Secret Service while a student at Cambridge, served for 38 years in a range of responsibilities in the UK and overseas, including Nairobi, Prague, Paris, Geneva and Washington, where he was head of station.

His time in Prague was during the Cold War, and his description of the role of Spymaster – microphones hidden in every room of his house and clandestine meetings to recruit, train and liaise with British and foreign agents – was the stuff of James Bond but with thrilling authenticity.

Sir Richard presented a comprehensive and masterly review of the threats facing the UK, from ISIS and Al-Qaeda terrorists to the growing possibility of Russian intervention in the Baltic States and left the audience both enthralled with the speech and demanding a return visit.

Future branch events include a talk from Jack Straw on 'Iran: Rogue state or Ally?' on June 11, in partnership with the University of South Wales; a summer evening garden party at Fônnon Castle on July 16; and a talk in the autumn by Lord Lisvane, the former Sir Robert Rogers, recently retired Clerk to the House of Commons.

For information regarding membership, contact branch chairman Derek Morgan on 01656 669129 or email [dwacym@googlemail.com](mailto:dwacym@googlemail.com).



Derek Morgan (Chairman), Anne Morgan with Sir Richard Dearlove.



Graeme Morgan, Sir Richard Dearlove and Kate Thomas (Lord Lieutenant Mid Glamorgan).

## Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthowl areas and Phil is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've

done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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# Out and About with The GEM

## WHAT'S ON, AND WHERE?

### Big Screen

KEVIN KLINE, Kristin Scott Thomas and Maggie Smith star in *My Old Lady* on the Big Screen at Cowbridge Town Hall this evening (March 26) at 7.30pm. Tickets £4 on the door.

### Cowbridge Choral Society

COWBRIDGE Choral Society will present a concert this Saturday, March 28 in Holy Cross Church, joined by Pontypridd Choral Society in a performance of the Mozart *Requiem* and *Requiem* by Saint Saens.

Tickets are available from society members, Davies Newsagent, Cowbridge and the box office, on 01446 792175.

New members are always welcome to join the choral society and experience is not essential. Rehearsals take place in the United Free Church, Westgate Street (opposite police station) every Thursday at 7.30pm.

### Easter crafts

THERE will be Easter crafts at Cowbridge library on Wednesday, April 1; free drop-in session between 11am - 1pm. For ages 3+.

### Author's talk

DAVID MARQUAND, author of *Mammon's Kingdom: An Essay on Britain Now*, will be at All Saints Church in Victoria Square on Thursday, April 9 to discuss his work, answer audience questions and sign copies of the book.

He will be introduced by MP Stephen Doughty and the discussion facilitated by Penarth resident Hywel Ceri Jones, formerly of the European Commission.

Call 02920 706455 for details. Doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm start.

### Spring fayre

THE Windsor Bowling Club will be holding their annual spring fayre at their clubhouse, Robinswood Crescent, Penarth on Saturday, April 4. £1 includes entrance, coffee and a hot cross bun.

### Parkinson's meeting

ON April 7, Hannah Churchill, Parkinson's UK research communications officer, will speak on the latest developments in Parkinson's research from 2pm in The Murchfield Community Centre, Dinas Powys. The event is free, and is open to the public, as well as people affected by Parkinson's.

"One in 500 people in the Vale of Glamorgan have Parkinson's - a neurological condition which can leave people struggling to walk, speak and sleep, and which has no cure," said Hannah Churchill.

"There are so many promising avenues which might lead to a cure for Parkinson's. I'm looking forward to sharing the secrets of what our researchers are doing 'behind the scenes' in the labs."

The group meets on the first Tuesday of every month from 2pm in Murchfield Community Centre, Sunnycroft Lane, Dinas Powys CF64 4QQ.

### Choir's farewell to conductor Neil

#### CARDIFF

**Polyphonic Choir** says 'goodbye' and 'farewell' to Neil Ferris in a concert at St German's Church in Adamsdown on Saturday, April 25 at 7.30pm.

The choir's chair Anne Rees explained: "This will be a sad occasion for the choir. Neil Ferris, who took over as our music director in 2005, has made a considerable impact on the choir - not only in expanding its

repertoire but in developing its ability to perform demanding choral works to the highest standards. We wish him well for the future".

Tickets may be purchased in advance from Mike Pepper on 01179146559 or may be purchased on the door on the evening of the concert.

### CHARITY SHOW AT PENARTH PAGET ROOMS

THE 'Not so Royal variety show' takes place at the Paget Rooms, Penarth, on Thursday, April 2. The event is in aid of the Alzheimer's Society and Mind. Performances start at 7.30pm.

The acts include: Lady Gaga tribute and impersonator Donna Marie; Frankie Roma; Aubrey Parsons; Rachel Roberts; Shirley Bassey tribute; Rod Stevens; hypnotist; Emily Langford and Rebekah West.

Comper for the evening is the talented Helen Enser Morgan.

General admission tickets (tier) are £10, VIP tickets £15; glass of bubbly on arrival and reserved seating in main hall; VIP box £80.

Tickets on sale now - online https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/150806 or call 07788 753 753.

Contact Rebecca Lydon 0844 225 3714 or rlydon@parkinsons.org.uk.

### Mayor's concert

THE Vale of Glamorgan Mayor is holding a charity concert at St Cyres School, Penarth, to raise funds for his two charities - Wales Air Ambulance and Barry Beavers Disabled Swimming Club on Saturday, April 18 at 7pm.

Tickets are priced at £7.50, available from the Mayor's office on 01446 709301.

Coun Hamilton, said: "We have a great line-up for this concert with Cowbridge Male Voice Choir, Barry Ladies Choir, Jodi Bird and Llinos Jones. I would encourage you to join me for an enjoyable evening and show support for my two worthwhile charities."

### Life Is For Today (LIFT)

THE LIFT self-help group offers support and friendship to those affected by breast cancer.

We meet regularly in Cowbridge every fortnight on Wednesdays between 10am and 2pm, or sometimes between 2pm and 4pm, for visiting speakers and other activities. We are usually able to offer relaxation sessions with trained therapists and last week some members enjoyed a trip to the Vale Spa.

The next meetings will be on Wednesday, April 1 in the morning, and then on Wednesday, April 22 in the afternoon. New members are welcome to join us, or to bring a friend.

For further information or a programme of events, call Anne 01446 772843 or Jan (01446 774575).

JB

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## Ryan Reynolds shines in uneven dark comedy...

**I**f anyone exemplifies the up and down nature of Hollywood it's Ryan Reynolds.

The affable performer has, since his breakthrough way back in 2002 with *Van Wilder*, attacked most genres available, balancing frothy comedies like *The Proposal* with blockbusters like *Green Lantern* and more dramatic fare like *Buried*.

However, his latest film sees him return to the off-kilter, idiosyncratic genre he first dabbled with in 2005's *The Nines* (a curio worth seeking out) in *The Voices*, where he plays Jerry, a man who's encouraged by his court-appointed psychiatrist to ask out his work crush Fiona (Gemma Arterton).

But when she stands him up on a date, events soon unravel, not helped by the fact that Jerry's pets are talking to him...

Talking animals aren't a new phenomenon in films; after all Dr Doolittle had his share of talking to the animals, while the likes of *Cats & Dogs* also saw creatures talking too, but the concept has rarely been used to such dark effect as it does in *The Voices*.

The talking pets may

be only one strand of the film, but together these come together to make a blackly comic film that straddles the line between comedy and horror very bravely, and if ultimately its execution is outstripped by its ambition, it still makes for an intriguing viewing experience.

Its ace card is in Ryan Reynolds, an actor who may have had a tough time of it lately, moving from critically-panned film to critically-praised film, but who is more than capable of handling his own in the acting department.

To be fair to the actor, given his present position in the Hollywood pecking order, this film is a brave choice, but one he grabs with both hands. As the film develops, we learn that Jerry is far more than just your usual, socially-awkward individual, yet Reynolds' delivery is pitched just right.

The film may jar between off-kilter comedy and slasher/serial killer horror, but Reynolds' turn manages to anchor it, the actor looking at his best since *Buried*.

His funny bone is the one we're used to seeing, but when given weightier material he doesn't do badly and this plays to his strengths, while his voice work for his pets,



by  
**GARETH JAMIESON**

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a cantankerous, sociopathic Scottish cat and a dog with a deep voice and a sad face, mines more towards comedy but works well.

What is lacking is enough of a sturdy construction around Jerry to really hold the film up. Reynolds holds up his end of the bargain, but the story never truly decides where it wants to lie. It's pitch black in places, and Marjane Satrapi's direction is wonderfully stylised to suit the mood, whether it's going full on *Friday The 13th* as Jerry 'innocently' tries to catch up to a character, or a bonkers song and dance number at the film's climax that should be hopelessly out of place but cruises by on its goofy charm.

There are some lovely little touches dotted throughout - the way the world visually changes when Jerry is taking the medication he so desperately should be using, through to a whole new take on talking heads - but you still can't quite get hold of what screenwriter Michael R Perry is trying to get across.

There are likeable enough turns from Gemma Arterton and Anna Kendrick as Jerry's co-workers, who bite off more than they can chew when they get close to him, and the whole is more than engaging, but ultimately *The Voices'* undoing is its lack of focus when it comes to its tone.

There's nothing wrong with trying to be dark and funny, but the inability here to pitch it precisely enough means that while it's a diverting and interesting watch, it certainly won't linger long afterwards.

**VERDICT** - A curious film that is tonally a little awkward, *The Voices* still manages to engage, in no small part thanks to Ryan Reynolds' well-pitched lead turn. Its lack of focus may knock a few marks off it, but as an off-the-wall dark comedy it does a good job. Enjoyable.

**SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED:** *Life After Beth* (2014), *American Psycho* (2000).

## COFFEE MORNING RAISES MONEY FOR VALEPLUS



AT a charity coffee morning hosted by the Mayor of the Vale, Coun Howard Hamilton, in the Civic Offices, £573 was raised to help Valeplus to carry out their work in the area.

At the event, the trustees of Valeplus were presented with a cheque for £484 by Bernard and Vina Honeysett. For his recent 80th birthday, Bernard generously asked friends and family to make donations to ValePlus, instead of giving him gifts.

Steve Thomas, of ValePlus, said: "We are extremely grateful to Bernard and Vina for their generous gift and to the mayor for hosting this event. The money raised will be put towards the cost of a new mini bus for our service users."

## Oxfam in Penarth needs volunteers

**VOLUNTEERS** retiring or finding work elsewhere spell a challenge for the Oxfam shop in Penarth.

It means there is a gap in the front of shop volunteer team.

The Oxfam shop in Penarth has always had the support of the local community which over the years has resulted in numerous volunteers coming forward to help Oxfam raise funds for their work at home and abroad. Now Jayne Luxton, the shop manager, is seeking new volunteers who enjoy meeting members of the public and working as part of a small, diverse and committed team.

Jayne said: "We are so grateful to all the volunteers who have given so many years

of their time to help us in the shop, some of whom have now moved on to other things.

"Our current volunteer team includes people from diverse backgrounds from students, the unemployed and retired. Recently we put out an appeal for volunteers to help us price up books and we had a tremendous response.

"Now we urgently need new volunteers to complete our volunteer team by helping us with our 'front of shop' work."

Anyone who would like to know more should ring or call in and ask for Jayne Luxton at the Oxfam Penarth shop, 8/8a Windsor Street, Penarth. Telephone 02920 706358.

DN



# Kidney donor Jean is on the Walk for Life

**PORTHCAWL** mum Jean Schofield who donated a kidney to her son Mark, is set to organise a Walk for Life event in the town – to raise money for the Kidney Wales Foundation.

The five-mile Walk for Life event will be one of many similar events occurring across Wales this Sunday, March 29, to support the Welsh charity.

Kidney Wales Walk for Life events are organised by volunteers who organise a walk, gathering together colleagues, friends and family to participate in order to raise vital funds and awareness for kidney patient care and well-being.

Jean (75), a retired former florist and nurse, became involved with Kidney Wales in 1989 after donating a kidney to her son, Mark Schofield, now 50, a retired European champion surfer. Today Jean is one of five mothers in the Porthcawl area who have donated kidneys to their children, all of whom are active in Kidney Wales' work.

The waiting list for kidney transplants in the UK is typically lengthy due to a shortage of organs, so the quickest way to get a transplant is to receive a living donation from a family member.

Having never previously considered the issue of kidney disease, Jean has remained an active fundraiser for Kidney Wales ever since her son's diagnosis, and is urging the people of Porthcawl to participate in the charity's Walk for Life event taking place on the seaside town's beachfront on March 29.

Kidney Wales Porthcawl was set up in 1970 and has been organising fundraising events ever since.

Last year's Walk for Life event in Porthcawl saw around 75 people take to the streets for charity, with participants including seven transplant

patients, as well as Jean and her four friends who have donated kidneys to their sons.

In addition to the annual Walk for Life event Kidney Wales Porthcawl also put on various events around the year, including coffee mornings and barbecues.

Jean said: "It can be tough generating support for events like Walk for Life because public awareness of kidney disease is quite low, despite the fact that kidneys are in fact the most transplanted organs.

"When my son was diagnosed, discovering Kidney Wales really was a godsend because there's always someone on the other end of the phone who understands the difficulty you and your loved ones are going through. Considering all the support they've given us over the years, it's an absolute pleasure to fundraise for them."

Kidney Wales chief executive, Roy Thomas, said: "We are incredibly grateful for people like Jean and the rest of the Porthcawl fundraising team. They do such a great job all year round, yet're truly a credit to what we do, and without this kind of grassroots support our charity wouldn't exist.

"We're hopeful that this year's Walk for Life event in Porthcawl will be as successful as ever. It is another step in the right direction for our charity as we continue to gain support for Walk for Life events across Wales as the big day draws nearer."

• Porthcawl's Walk for Life is set to take place this Sunday morning, March 29. Registrations are now open, and the event is for people of all ages and abilities.

For more information, or to join a Walk for Life in your area, contact Bethan Palfrey at Kidney Wales Foundation [bethan@kidneywales.com](mailto:bethan@kidneywales.com) or 029 2034 3940. Alternatively, visit [www.kidneywales.com](http://www.kidneywales.com)

Best foot forward: Joan Williams, Jean Schofield, Mandy Lloyd, Wendy Richards, and Jayne Thomas.



## Two bus services make their final stop

**TWO bus routes serving Bettws are to stop operating from next month after Bridgend County Borough Council's cabinet**

**approved proposals to reduce its subsidy for local bus services by £120,000 during the next year.**

The council supports local bus services by

subsidising routes that are not commercially viable, but because of cuts to public funding the authority will not be able to retain all of the bus services it currently subsidises in 2015/16, it was stated.

The First Cymru number 15 service that runs in the evenings between Bridgend and Bettws will stop after Saturday, April 4, while the Easyway number 128 service between Bettws and Nantymoel will finish on Friday, April 10.

"Discussions have taken place with bus operators and they are being invited to put forward any alternatives which are commercially viable," said Coun Phil White, BCBC's cabinet

member for communities.

"In an ideal world, we would be able to subsidise any number of commercial bus services. However, we need to be realistic and accept that due to the huge cuts we face we have to make more than double the amount of savings than we made in the last financial year.

"We apologise for any inconvenience caused by the withdrawal of these services."

## Local PACT meetings

**YNYSAWDRE Cuppa with a Copper** on April 1 at Ynysawdre Community Hall 2pm – 4pm.

**BRYNCETHIN PACT** on April 1 at Nazareth Chapel at 6pm.

**LLANGYNWYD PACT** on April 7 at Llangynwyd Village Hall at 6pm.

**SARN / BRYNCOCH PACT** on April 7 at Sarn Life Centre at 7pm.

**LLANGEINOR PACT** on April 8 at the Richard Price Centre at 5.30pm.

**YNYSAWDRE PACT** on April 8 at

**Ynysawdre Community Hall at 6pm.**  
**CAERAU PACT** on April 13 at Noddfa Chapel at 6pm.

**CORNELLY PACT** on April 16 at Cornelly Primary School at 6.30pm.

**PYLE / CEFN CRIBWR PACT** on April 16 at the Talbot Community Centre at 6.30pm.

**BETTWS PACT** on April 24 at Bettws Life Centre at 2pm.

**ABERKENFIG / PENYFAI** on April 27 at Smyrna Chapel, Pen-y-fai at 7pm.

## Hall singalong

**ON May 1, Cor Meibion Maesteg will be staging an informal singing evening at the hall at Llangynwydd Community Hall.**

There will be no charge for admission; doors will be open at 8pm.

# SALE

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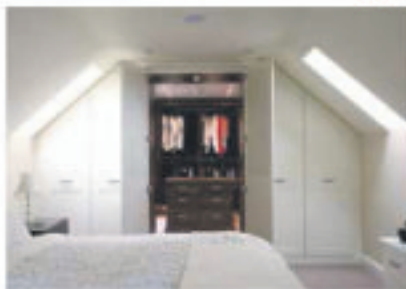
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# YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS



Aberkenfig WI: Mair Starr, Eunice Williams, Dilys Mitchell and Gillian Williams.

**WI celebrates**  
ON March 7, four members of Aberkenfig WI attended a service of thanksgiving at Llandaff Cathedral celebrating the centenary of the formation of the WI in Wales, England and the Channel Islands.

All the institutes in Glamorgan were represented and Llandaff Cathedral was almost full: guests of honour were the Mayor of Cardiff with her husband and there was a parade of 60 WI banners before the service.

There were Bible readings by Mrs Shena Sargeant, a past Federation chairman;

Mrs Carolyn Davies, present Federation chairman and Mrs Ann Jones, Federation of Wales chair, who gave a brief talk about how the Women's Institute movement had been an important resource during both wars and continued to be a force to be reckoned with today.

The Very Reverend Gerwyn Huw Capon, Dean of Llandaff, led the service and gave the address.

The only criticism I would make is that there were no other dignitaries or representatives of the press present. This was an important event and should really have been given more publicity.

## Felt talk

ON March 11, president Eunice Williams welcomed

Aberkenfig and District Women's Institute members to the meeting and happy birthday was sung to Eunice. Eunice introduced the speaker, Pat Johnson, whose subject was 'What does she get up to in that shed?' Pat is a member of Colwinston WI and is fanatical about making felt.

She gave a short explanation of how felt is made and had brought examples of her work.

Gillian Williams gave the vote of thanks and the raffle was won by Maureen Pearce and Dorothy Thomas; the competition for the daintiest cup and saucer was won by Mair Starr.

The Glamorgan show is at North Cornelly Community Centre and public hall from 10am to 5pm on July 25. This is an annual event and the competition is always very fierce. Eunice thanked the tea hostesses, Peggy Jones and Ethel Rudge.

The branch meets on the second Wednesday of each month in the Len Evans Centre, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig, at 2pm. The speaker on April 8 will be Audrey Griffiths on 'Keeping the Home Fires Burning'.

The competition will be for an old book. For further information call Dilys on 01656 725399, or go to [www.cobwebs.com](http://www.cobwebs.com).

## Côr Merched Cwm Llynfi

LLYNFI Valley Ladies Choir held an enjoyable concert in celebration of the Welsh patron saint at the Celtic Club, Garth, Maesteg on St David's Day. The concert featured the combined choirs of Côr Merched Cwm Llynfi and Côr Meibion Maesteg A'r Cylch.

Each choir performed a varied programme which included songs from their Welsh repertoire. They joined forces for the final item, Arwel Hughes' arrangement of 'Tydi A'r Roddaist'.

Côr Merched rehearse at the Celtic Club on Wednesday evenings from 7pm to 9pm.

## Cor Meibion

ON a sunny March day, 40 members of Côr Meibion Maesteg A'r Cylch (Maesteg and District male choir) travelled to Warminster to sing at the Warminster Rotary Club.

The choir have been guests of Warminster for over 30 years and the welcome they receive is much appreciated.

The venue, The Athenaeum in Warminster, a grade 2 listed building built in 1857, was completely full. The choir, under the baton of musical director Rhian Jenkins, aided by accompanist Ryan Wood, were prepared to perform in a concert to the choir's usual high standard.

Both took it in turns to compete for the evening, and both spoke on the choir's achievements and aspirations for the future.

The choir sang 'Creations Hymn' arranged by Lyn Thomas of Maesteg, followed by Welsh hymns 'Llef' and 'Gwahoddiaid' then joined with Maesteg soprano, Sally Ann Kingsbury.

Kevan Lloyd took the solo part from the musical *Miss Saigon*, and 'Tell My Father' arranged especially for the choir by Ryan Wood.

The choir rehearses at the Celtic Club on alternate Tuesdays and every Thursday from 7pm to 9pm. New members are welcome.

**Easter Parade**  
THE Easter Bonnet parade and competition takes place at the Community Centre (Green Hall) on Saturday, April 4 at 10am.

Organised by Cefn Cribwr Gardening Club, the event is open to all and even if you don't bring the children or grandchildren you can still pop in for a cuppa, a

slice of cake and a chat.

For more information, contact Veronica Davies (Email: [vonandpete@hotmail.com](mailto:vonandpete@hotmail.com)) or Tracy Birch (email: [alanandtracybirch139@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alanandtracybirch139@hotmail.co.uk)) or telephone 01656 743410).

**Bryncethin WI**  
ON March 19, president Debi Thomas opened the meeting and thanked Sarah Webb and Lesley Russell for their hard work with the completion of the Bryncethin WI banner, which was finished just in time for the parade of WI banners in Llandaff Cathedral on March 7.

Lesley Russell and Teresa Ree represented the WI at this event.

Members were asked if they could have one more volunteer to take part in the Link fashion show and afternoon tea event in Garth, Maesteg on July 28. Sarah Webb volunteered to be a model alongside member Audrey Letton.

Secretary Jen Davies read the minutes and Annette Stoneham wished a happy birthday.

Members were informed that the May 21 meeting would be held at the earlier time of 6.30pm, and were reminded to donate items for the table top sale.

Jen Davies read from the newsletter. The February curry and bingo night will become a regular social evening.

The next one will be held in May at The Royal Oak in Bryncethin. Members were encouraged to use their WI ballot paper to take part in the Buckingham Palace Royal Garden Party on June 2. The ballot papers were drawn and the names of two lucky members will be put forward to Federation House.

A demonstration was given by Mrs Clare Revere from 'Out to Learn Willow' based in Ogmore-By-Sea.

Teresa Ree and Carol Finch informed

## NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of THE GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: **CLIVE MITCHELL**  
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ  
TEL: 01656 725399

email: [tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk)



The Dean (in the red cloak) at the WI thanksgiving service..

members of social events, including a mystery trip on Saturday, May 9, and a Christmas trip on November 21 to Westonbirt National Arboretum and Tetbury.

Bryncethin WI meet on the third Thursday of each month from 6.45pm to 9pm, at Bryncethin Memorial Hall. The next meeting will be on April 17 when the speaker will be Wendy Derrick, with a talk on a children's charity in Goa.

For further information, email: [Bryncethin.wi@gmail.com](mailto:Bryncethin.wi@gmail.com) or telephone the secretary Jen on 07938 746890.

## Bonnets parade

**TYNRYHEOL Primary School** is holding its Easter assembly this Friday, March 27 at 9.15am in the school hall, and would welcome parents and governors.

There will be the foundation phase Easter bonnet parade for pupils from nursery, reception, year-1 and year-2.

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be designing an Easter egg as a member of staff!

The school has received four applications for the vacant parent governor roles, namely Mr Hadleigh Hobbs, Mrs Daisy Standing, Mr Simon Street and Pastor Johnathan Wilson.

'Team Work' was the value for this week and certificates have been presented to the pupil who has best displayed this value consistently throughout the week.

This week's winners are: Class 1 - Ashley Matthews, for working hard in a team to build a dinosaur world with Lego; Class 2 - Lewis Matthews, for helping

his group out with their maths group; Class 3 - Thomas Sage, for excellent questioning to engage his group in discussion.

## Tondu Primary School

**PARENTS and friends** can share in Miss Jones and Miss Mahoney's class Ewenni assembly on Friday, March 27 at 10.20am.

The PTA has arranged a disco for pupils today (March 26) between 5:15pm and 6:45pm, at Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen. There will be an entrance fee of £1 per pupil, which will include a raffle ticket.

Cardiff City Community Foundation will be running a soccer school during the Easter holidays for children aged 4-16 years old. Book online at [www.cardiffcityfoundation.co.uk](http://www.cardiffcityfoundation.co.uk) or

telephone 07582 884701.

Also badminton taster sessions will be held at Brackla Sports Centre during the Easter holidays for children aged eight to 11 from 10am to 12pm and for 12 to 15-year-olds from 1pm to 3pm, cost £1.50. For further information, contact 01656 815119.

## Gardening talk

**L A L E S T O N Gardening Club** invites members of the public to a talk by Maria Lalik, who will be recounting her experiences in making a simple country garden on April 13 at 7.30pm in the 'Cliff' cottage, High Street. The club has a thriving ladies' section which meets on the first and third Tuesdays in the month in the same venue at 7.30 pm. New members are always welcome.

## Sun shines on Lions' book sale

**L L A N T W I T MAJOR and Cowbridge Lions** enjoyed a lovely spring day for their second-hand book sale outside Caffé Nero in the Cowbridge Waitrose car park last Saturday, March 21.

As well as the good weather, the book sale also benefitted from the good location with a steady flow of customers. Over £200 was raised for the good causes supported by Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions.

The book sale was also an opportunity to remind everyone of the Cowbridge May Fair, which is being held on Bank Holiday Monday, May 4, on the Bear Field from 10am to 5pm.

The sunny weather was a reminder of the wonderful 2013 May Fair. As in 2013, the fair will be free entry and will be a great family day out.

For those interested in having a stall on the day, both outdoor and indoor pitches are still available. Contact 0845 833 6763 or e-mail [info@lmandclions.org.uk](mailto:info@lmandclions.org.uk) or visit [www.lmandclions.org.uk](http://www.lmandclions.org.uk).

## Coychurch pupils are top in 'The Big Pedal'

**HUNDREDS of thousands of school children across the UK have been travelling to school on scooters and bikes over the last three weeks as part of The Big Pedal 2015, and pupils from Coychurch Primary are celebrating after clocking up the most journeys on two wheels in Bridgend county borough.**

A spoke-tacular 20,000 'active' journeys were made in the county borough, with parents being encouraged to leave their cars at home for the daily school run.

Twenty-four local schools took part, and Coychurch came out on top locally and also finished fourth overall in Wales and 65th in the

UK.

The school's bike shed was overflowing throughout the challenge, and Coychurch Primary School headteacher Sue Hurry said: "It's fantastic to be the Bridgend County Borough's winning school in The Big Pedal. We've certainly seen a difference over the last few weeks with more children cycling, scooting and walking to school, and less congestion at the school gate. I'm sure that many of our children will keep up these new habits - it's been clear how much they all enjoy it!"

Organised by cycling charity Sustrans, and supported locally by Bridgend County Borough Council, the Big Pedal ran from March 2-20 and is the UK's largest inter-school cycling and scooting challenge.





# Spring into Easter

at High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street



## Barry's West End comes alive at Easter time... AND THERE'S LOTS FOR CHILDREN TOO!

**E**ASTER is a special time on High Street – it means the lighter evenings have arrived, the sunnier days, the bonnet parade and The GEM's Easter bunny competition.

There's never been a secret to the success of High Street, Barry: the traders know their customers personally, go that extra mile and are keen to thank them for

their loyalty by putting on Christmas, Easter and Summer events.

This year is no different with the Easter bonnet and costume parade being held on Saturday, April 4, from 11am to 1pm. Mums and dads, and guardians, are all welcome to bring children along to take part.

The meeting point is the new building where Hyper Value use to be.

The age categories are up to three years old; four to six years old;

seven to ten years old; and 11 to 13 years old.

There will be prizes at the end for the children, and there's K1 Parties afterwards free to all children (there will be an extra charge for face painting and refreshments).

The GEM is also running an Easter bunny competition to win Easter eggs:

Children simply have to track down the names of the Easter bunnies featured in shop

windows on High Street. List as many names of the 20 rabbits as possible, put your name, address and telephone number alongside your list and hand it in to Jade boutique, or send it into the Glamorgan GEM at [gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk](mailto:gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk).

The bunnies can be seen from this Thursday, March 26 until Tuesday, April 7.

## Themed parties all the rage for Dr Bob



One of Dr Bob's amazing creations – Rapunzel's tower.

**DR BOB'S Balloons is a High Street institution and internationally known for balloon sculpture and artistry.**

Whether it's a wedding, christening, charity event or special occasion Bob Armstrong is able to make it unforgettable with his extravagant creations.

Bob, who had done a number of stints as chairman of High Street traders, explained: "There's been an increased demand for 'themed' events – the biggest is Frozen, for boys it's

The Avengers and Doctor Who."

Bob can create whatever character you're after, Fireman Sam, Mister Tickle, Star Wars characters...

"People want things personalised too. We can put photos of people on balloons – that's very popular. We do 'bespoke' creations. People come to us and say they want something special, and we oblige and make sure it's within their budget."

To find out how Bob and the staff can help brighten your special family occasion or company event call 01446 730780; <http://www.balloons-unlimited.com/>.

## Miss Holmes introduces the very special 'Grand Illusions'



ABOVE:

The high quality Grand Illusions paint range, inspired by the Nordic-French palette, is only available at limited outlets, including Miss Holmes on High Street.

**S**TYLE is synonymous with 'Miss Holmes' which always has exclusive gifts and items that delight its customers.

The latest addition to the shop is a very special vintage paint range called Grand Illusions.

The owner of Miss Holmes Nicola explained: "Grand Illusions is a unique, easy to use matt paint inspired by the Nordic-French palette. There are 26 colours in all."

"It is sophisticated and self-priming with very good adhesion. The paints are eco-friendly and can be applied to most surfaces such as furniture, walls and floors. People are very keen on reviving old pieces of furniture – it's ideal for that."

Grand Illusions replicates the buttermilk

paint of the 18th and 19th centuries, is water-based and made with earth pigments, chalk, clay and a very small amount of acrylic medium to bind it together.

For more on Grand Illusions pop in to Miss Holmes for a chat with the staff.

The boutique is a real Aladdin's cave that beckons in those who love a browse. There is the Willow Tree range of figurines, home fragrances courtesy of Ashleigh Burwood, the bath and body products Nougat Naturals, watches, jewellery and distinctive gift cards.

Nicola's aim is that whether it is a man, woman, boy or girl, there's always a gift they can find to delight a loved-one. Miss Holmes succeeds in providing something different or luxurious without being over-priced.

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# Spring into Easter

at High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street



## 'MEAT' THE BUTCHER!



Vic Hopkins is the local butcher and will be busy right up to Easter Saturday.

## Be inspired at Anastasia Beads, Barry



**ANASTASIA BEADS**, situated on High Street, is a must-visit for those keen on jewellery.

A spokesman said: "We've got a huge range of beads, healing and palm stones."

"We've also got Celtic pewter jewellery, charm bracelets – and lots of other ranges of fashion and Made in Wales jewellery."

"There's also a great selection of fascinators and hats – even fascinators for shoes!"

If you want to be inspired, or track down something new, Anastasia Beads is the place for you.

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## 'CREATIVE WALES' IS THE THEME AT ISLAND ROAD



A browse in Bespoke Jewellery Workshop will inspire you.

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Toby, the hypnotherapist, explained: "The service is safe and in a confidential environment."

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There are special concessions for the police and people working in emergency services.

Toby is accredited with the National Hypnotherapy Society. For more information, call 07483 130 449.

**I**SLAND ROAD, with Homemade Wales and Bespoke Jewellery Workshop is a haven of Welsh creativity and the perfect place to pick up that special gift.

Robert Linder of Bespoke Jewellery Workshop explained that people are keen on individual designs, something unique, rather than mass produced.

"I and my two designers and goldsmiths, Clare and Emma, are able to handmake one-off pieces of jewellery. People can come in for a consultation and we can bounce ideas back and forth and create something very special. "Clients let us know what they want and we will make it."

Robert has been located on Island Road for two years – he also owns Brookline Jewellery by Design in High Street arcade in Cardiff.

People love popping in to the Barry workshop for a browse and chat with Robert about making that

unforgettable piece of jewellery – perhaps a ring, necklace, band – that will delight and dazzle for a lifetime. A wedding? A special occasion? A gift that will never be forgotten? Platinum, gold, silver – it's your choice.

Next door on Island Road, Fay Blakeley continues the theme of Welsh creativity at Homemade Wales which stocks handcrafted gifts and homewares.

Fay explained: "There are two elements to the shop, everything is handcrafted by Welsh people or made in Wales. We are the only outlet in the area to have the products displayed."

Rather than stock mass-produced items that can be found in any multiple shop outlet, Fay was keen to select individually sourced pieces.

"I wanted to establish the shop as part of the community and benefit the Welsh economy."

Homemade Wales can be found on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/homemade.wales](http://www.facebook.com/homemade.wales).



Homemade Wales Handcrafted Welsh Gifts & Homeware is run by Fay Blakeley and items are either handcrafted in Wales or by Welsh people, benefitting the country's economy.

## Butterflies says look out for our relaunch soon!

**B**UTTERFLIES is celebrating its sixth anniversary this Easter and would like to thank all our loyal customers for their support over the years.

We hope you will join us in the celebration on the opening of our new and bigger shop down the road at 8 High Street which will open soon. Keep an eye out for more details on our massive launch which will be publicised in The GEM.

**Jade BOUTIQUE**  
New Season  
Stock Arriving Daily  
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Looking forward to moving to new premises June 1st to 74 High Street  
**89 High Street, Barry**  
**01446 730811**

## Jade on the move

**J**ADE boutique, which stocks clothing, bags and accessories for the glamorous woman, is one of the most familiar names on High Street, Barry.

It's also on the move – just a few yards down the road to the unit currently occupied by Butterflies.

Owner Jane James and Cath Buckeridge are well known by ladies in the town for their friendly advice – spring and summer styles are ready to be viewed.

Jane said: "We're moving to be in a better location and hope to complete everything in the last week in May, first week in June."

Jane has traded for 30 years on Broad Street, Island Road and High Street, and when she's off on trips selecting the latest in fashion for the style-conscious woman, Cath is there to hold the fort.

## Another "Eggcellent" GEM Competition

Join in the fun,  
& WIN Easter Eggs!



Can you find the rabbits hiding in High Street, Broad Street & Barry Island?

We have 20 rabbits hiding in the windows of various businesses.

Write down as many rabbits' names you can find along with your name & phone number.

You can email your answer to [gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk](mailto:gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk) or hand in to Jade Boutique on High Street. Normal competition rules apply.

Closing date 8th April 2015.

6 lucky winners will each win an easter egg!

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# Spring into Easter

at High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street

## GORGEOUS BRANDS AT BRYL'S BOUTIQUE



ABOVE: Glamour at Bryl's Boutique includes dresses by Ted Baker.

THE rails in Bryl's Boutique are filled with gorgeous new spring-summer collections from fantastic brands such as Ted Baker, French Connection, Great Plains, Darling, Masai, Sandwich and Yaya.

Teamed with Ugg footwear, a pair of Fit Flops or a gorgeous handbag, there really is something to suit all ages and purses at Bryl's.

*Bryl's Boutique*



Wishing all our customers

**A Happy Easter**

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EASY PARKING AVAILABLE

## Beespoke Cycles has all the top advice for a fit, healthy pastime



ABOVE: There are lots of attractively priced bicycles at Beespoke Cycles to suit all requirements.

BEAUTIFUL spring days inspire many people to get fitter – and cycling has become a boom pastime thanks to Britain's successes in the Tour de France and at the Olympics.

Whether you are an established cyclist or a willing novice Beespoke Cycles is there with expert advice to help you out.

Gerard Davies said: "People can pop along to select a bike or get their

current one serviced now the better weather is on its way. There is fabulous cycling to enjoy in the Vale.

"We are happy to discuss all aspects with people – whether they're interested in a bike for commuting, exercise on the road, or off-road. We're got bikes to suit all requirements."

"We also have a very quick repair and service provision."

Beespoke Cycles is open from Monday to Saturday and could be the gateway to a new pleasurable, healthy pastime.

## Beespoke Cycles

Barry's No 1 Bike Shop

1 HIGH STREET, BARRY

For repairs, servicing, new bikes & accessories  
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4 Broad St, Barry Booking Tel 01446 721440 Advisable

## Visitor gets 15 out of 15 to scoop Rotary prize!

WHEN Cowbridge Rotary Club held a competition, backed by The GEM, in advance of the RBS Six Nation, asking rugby fans to predict the results of the 15 games, it seemed likely that entrants would need to get 12 or 13 right to be in contention.

However, that theory fell apart when a hotel guest, staying at The Bear, became the only one out of 412 entries to get all 15 games correct! Step forward Matt



Brown, who lives in Northamptonshire and was visiting Cowbridge on the Friday of the first match (Wales v England).

A Cowbridge Rotary spokesman said: "Matt and Anna live in Northamptonshire and were visiting friends in Cowbridge on the weekend of the Wales v England match."

"They asked for their prize to be donated to a Cowbridge charity, and

they know Roger Helliwell who is a volunteer at the Cowbridge Physic Garden, so they have donated their £100 prize to the Physic Garden Trust.

"There were 412 entries and the Rotary Club of Cowbridge is grateful to everyone who entered. We are also grateful to The GEM for publicising the competition, and for its support in distributing

entry forms. The Bear Hotel kindly hosted a posting-box for entries".

The chairman of the Physic Garden Trust, Jo Homfray, said: "This was a really thoughtful gesture by Mr Brown, and it is much appreciated."

"The money will go towards maintaining the Physic Garden, and we will make good use of it."

After printing costs, The Rotary Club was able to put £235 into its charity account, while Matt Brown's prize money has been donated to the Physic Garden.

## Ex-newsreader is the new Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan

TODAY (March 26) sees the inauguration of Mrs Jayne James of Pyle as High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan at St John's Church, Newton, Porthcawl.

She will make her 'declaration' before the Lord Lieutenant, in the presence of Mr Justice Wyn Williams, former High Sheriffs, civic dignitaries, armed and uniformed services, family and friends.

Probably best-known as the face of BBC breakfast news, her broadcasting career spanned three decades. She presented news bulletins at BBC Wales for 27 years, before she decided to retire

in 2012, to pursue other career ambitions.

She is now a partner in a Womenswear fashion retail shop, Loulou, based in the grounds of Pyle Garden Centre, which is family-owned. She also oversees the running of the Olive Tree restaurant based in the garden centre.

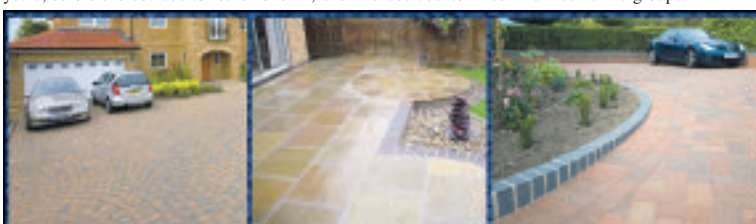
Mrs James has worked as a volunteer for various charities for more than 30 years, including Barnardo's, Save the Children, George Thomas Hospice, Sandville, and British Heart Foundation.

During her year as High Sheriff, she has decided to raise

funds for Gofal, a mental health and well-being charity based in Bridgend.

Two events have been organised, a charity ball and a fashion show. Money raised in excess of £10,000 will open the Crystal Ball fund, for vulnerable people with mental health issues.

One of her plans for her year of office is to visit local schools to talk about the role of the High Sheriff and its historic links with the Magna Carta, and also find new entrants to qualify for the High Sheriff Youth Awards, a scheme which recognises and rewards special achievements of individuals and groups.



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## Memorable residential venture activity week for Barry pupils



PUPILS from Holton Primary School, Barry, took part in a memorable educational Venture Holiday at Manor Adventure, Llanwrtyd Wells last week.

Centre Staff led high quality sessions that were designed to instil confidence and provide a real sense of achievement. Activities included kayaking, orienteering, climbing, archery and most importantly, all pupils completed their 'Basic Skill Adventurous Activity Certificate' during their weeks stay.

AG

## Women artists display creativity in exhibition

THE Women's Arts Association open art exhibition at Art Central, Barry, has more than 60 items on show.

Coun Lis Burnett, cabinet member for regeneration, said: "I would like to congratulate you all for continuing to provide women across the country with an opportunity to showcase their creative talent and for giving them a visual voice to celebrate women in Wales."

"This open exhibition allows everyone to take part, and this year has

welcomed Bethan, a budding artist of only nine years, with her charming hand-painted, pink slippers."

Penelope Rose Cowley, the vice chair of Women's Arts Association, thanked the Vale Council for hosting this year's exhibition in such a "stunning space". Eve Hart, a Vale based artist officially declared the exhibition open.

The exhibition will continue until March 28 at Art Central Gallery, Barry Town Hall, King Square, and is open Monday to Saturday, 10am to 4pm.

## Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D871.

● £2,000: 794920.  
● The rollover, which now stands at £7,500 was not won this week.

● £10: 739715, 862661, 493881, 363214, 109480, 248692, 687110, 864839, 573413, 638114, 553708, 238212, 846341, 822077, 594559, 590520, 628332, 887191, 848383, 001351.

● £5: 369604, 695149, 204451, 630829, 339963, 584555, 535032, 541778, 366969, 505358,

439606, 724479, 884375, 183087, 625091, 721628, 719712, 806039, 824880, 378149, 887834, 193697, 685186, 112978, 852773, 113214, 623298, 718942, 110950, 686249, 162689, 529004, 669994, 220945, 228778, 989082, 132281, 717164, 187651, 220697, 335344, 551162, 471460, 553025, 742914, 488732, 722955, 739745, 801851, 165281, 231281, 963794, 148082, 106446, 195149, 305016, 646772, 312280, 001228, 000071.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.



Former Barry Comprehensive School students now studying at the Cardiff & Vale College returned to talk to current students.

## Careers day at Barry school

RECENTLY, Barry Comprehensive School's main hall was filled with companies, businesses and organisations welcoming students to the annual careers fair.

Hundreds of students visited the stalls to find out about the opportunities in the workplace and in further education.

Business visitors ranged from the global to the local and included the Royal Navy, HSBC, Keepmoat, Dow Corning, CITB, British Telecom and Lafarge Tarmac. Other organisations included Vale Volunteer Bureau, ACT, RTPI and Cardiff and Vale UHB Dental Nursing.

Welsh Universities were also keen to let



Dental Nursing proved an interesting new career option for many students.

students know what they had to offer, with stands from Aberystwyth University, Cardiff University, Cardiff Metropolitan University, Swansea Metropolitan University and the University of Wales (Trinity) being very popular.

College also provided information on their degree courses, including aircraft engineering.

The school is grateful to all the attendees for their time and commitment to showing students some of the huge range of opportunities available to them.

# RESOLVE it

Years 10 & 11 only 10am to 3pm

## EASTER "MUSIC AND MOVES"

FREE TASTER WORKSHOP

**Wednesday 1st April**  
at Howell's School, Llandaff

**FREE**

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Revise exam topics by making music

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# RESOLVE it

## EASTER SELF-DEFENCE WORKSHOP AT HOWELL'S SCHOOL LLANDAFF

Join us in our taster self-defence workshops  
2nd April at Howell's School, Llandaff

**£6 FOR 2HRS**

**AGES 7 to 13**

Workshop 1: 10-12pm for ages 7-10  
Workshop 2: 12-2pm for ages 11-13

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## VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

# 'The young people know what matters in the Vale'

**O**N Monday, I welcomed a number of sixth form students from Bryn Hafren Comprehensive in Barry to Westminster, to discuss my role in Parliament.

I was delighted to welcome the group, studying for the Welsh Baccalaureate, to show them how Parliament runs on a day-to-day basis.

The students I welcomed are incredibly knowledgeable, motivated and want to shape their own future.

I am consistently impressed with how much they care about the future of Barry and the Vale – after all, students need good, well-paid jobs, housing and opportunities.

The most positive feedback I have had from local residents in regard to the regeneration of Barry Island has been from the next generation.

They can see the potential in the area, and how significant investment in the largest town in Wales can be a catalyst – I completely agree with them.

Meeting school pupils of all ages has been one of the most rewarding parts of my role as



**Vale MP  
Alun Cairns  
reports to  
GEM readers**

MP in the last five years. I have had schools from every area of the Vale visit Westminster, and I know that pupils have found it incredibly rewarding.

I think it is so important to allow youngsters from an early age to learn about how elected representatives make decisions

that have a direct impact on them.

On the subject of decisions that impact local pupils and parents and teachers, proposals are being digested for a major shake-up of schools in Barry.

I have met a large number of anxious parents who have raised a number of important points about whether the plans have been fully considered by local decision-makers.

Tonight, a public meeting is being held at the Ship Hotel in Barry to discuss school plans.

I am encouraging parents to come along and make the case to ensure that any changes to schools will ensure that the welfare of pupils, at such an important time in their lives, is the absolute priority.

We are now less than 50 days away from the general election, and Monday sees the dissolution of Parliament.

I will spend the next few weeks on the campaign trail, and will see many friendly faces that I have met in every community.

*May I use this opportunity to thank all of the individuals, locally elected colleagues and communities for their support over the last five years.*

and Aberthaw railway route is not a viable proposition either, again due to house building. Perhaps we could persuade them to try a Crossrail type tunnel from The Tumble to Cowbridge? (I'm not holding my breath...)

By the way, there are still a couple of mounting blocks in Cowbridge to make it easier to get on your horse...

*John Upstone, Llanblethian.*

## The Vale of Glamorgan Council (PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING AND LOADING AND PARKING PLACES) (CIVIL ENFORCEMENT) (AMENDMENT) (NO 5) ORDER 2014

1. On the 24th March 2015 The Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 32, 35, 45, 46, 53 and 124 and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 and all other enabling powers made an Order the general effect of which is as described below:
2. The Order will come into operation on 30th March 2015 or on the dates that the signs and road markings are in place and be known as the "Vale of Glamorgan Council (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places) (Civil Enforcement) (Amendment) (No 5) Order 2014"
3. A copy of the Order and plans showing the affected areas may be seen at the address shown below during normal office hours.
4. If you wish to question the validity of the Order or any provisions contained therein on the grounds that they are not within the powers conferred by the above Act or on the grounds that any requirement of the same or that any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may within six weeks from the 30th March 2015 apply to the High Court for this purpose.

The following Traffic Regulation Order is to be amended as follows:

**Vale of Glamorgan Council (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places) (Civil Enforcement) Order 2013 Proposed No Waiting At Any Time – Insert New Plan No U40 Heol St. Cattwg, Pendoylan**

On the north side of the road, from a point approximately 9 metres east of its junction with Pendoylan Road, in a south westerly direction then around the bend in a north westerly direction for a distance of approximately 23 metres.

On the south side of the road, from a point approximately 9 metres east of its junction with Pendoylan Road, in a south westerly direction around the bend for a distance of approximately 17 metres.

**Dated this 26th day of March 2015.**

M. E. Punter  
Director of Visible Services & Housing  
Vale of Glamorgan Council, The Alps,  
Wenvoe CF5 6AA

## PACT meetings around the Vale

**ILLTYD** – meet your local officers at Cafe No 5, High Street, Barry, on March 27 between 10.30am and 12 noon.

**DINAS POWYS PACT**, Youlden House, Fair Oaks, Dinas Powys on March 30 at 7pm.

**GIBBONSDOWN PACT**, Gibbonsdown Residents' Board, Coychurch Rise, Barry, on March 31 at 10.30am.

**BUTTRILLS PACT**, Barry Town Council Offices, Holton Road, Barry, April 9 at 6.30pm.

**CASTLELAND PACT**, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, April 13 at 7pm.



## Public meeting

**Thursday 2 April, at 7.30pm**

**Lesser Hall, Rhoose Community Hall,  
Stewart Road, Rhoose (side entrance)**

**Vale Council plans to ignore local wishes and force us to run our own volunteer-led library otherwise they will close it. Come along to the meeting to discuss the options and next steps for the campaign.**

**What's next for Rhoose Library?**

Website: [saverhooselibrary.wordpress.com](http://saverhooselibrary.wordpress.com)

email: [saverhooselibrary@gmail.com](mailto:saverhooselibrary@gmail.com)



Save Rhoose Library 2014

## 'Why I say Barry is the better option' GEM reader

**F**OR those of your correspondents last week who seem to want to inflict more housing on Cowbridge, rather than Barry, I would offer the following facts, which would make the Barry option seem to be the better one.

Cowbridge does have a bypass, but thanks to the incompetence of the Glamorgan Planning Department at the beginning of the 1960s, all traffic travelling from the A48 to Llandow/Llantwit has to use either the main street through Cowbridge, or the narrow road through Llyswoyney.

Cowbridge has a bus service – every 30 minutes to either Cardiff or Bridgend – adult return fare Cowbridge to Cardiff £7 (First Group plc web site) for a 45 minute journey.

Cowbridge used to have a railway track until Dr Beeching's report scheduled it for closure (the last passenger train ran on Saturday, November 24 1951) and the rails were lifted in 1964. While the line of the old track can still be seen in parts between Cowbridge and Pontyclun where it joined the main Cardiff-Bridgend line someone went and built houses on the old station site.

Cowbridge gridlock for morning commuter traffic starts at Waterton Cross roundabout (Bridgend), Culverhouse Cross (Cardiff) or Brynsadler and Pendoylan (M4).

Cowbridge (still) hasn't got a Post Office – Barry has at least five.

Barry has 13 bus services listed for travel between Barry and Cardiff and Bridgend, or within Barry, and a choice of three railway stations (four if you count Barry Island) with a train service to Cardiff running every 15 minutes – adult return fare Cardiff to Barry £5 (National Rail Enquiries Journey Planner), 30-minute ride. So if you have a problem with Barry being "gridlocked", why not let the train take the strain? Even Rhoose has a railway station.

As for the potential south Wales metro link? Cogan, Barry, Barry Island and Rhoose (Cardiff Airport) all get mentions; perhaps if they hadn't built the houses and fire station, they could have added Cowbridge via the old Cowbridge Railway track bed, rather than leaving it out altogether.

Unfortunately, resurrecting the old Cowbridge

## SPRING MUSIC

A **SPRING** time concert of popular music, with special guests **Barry Male Voice Choir**, will be presented by **CAOS** on **Saturday, April 25** at **Rhoose Community Centre, Stewart Road, Rhoose**. Tickets from **Rhoose Spar, £5** or on the door.

## Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2015 GORCHYMYN (GORFODI SIFIL) (DIWYGIO) (RHIF 5) (GWAHARDD MANNAU AROS, LLWYTHO A PHARCIO A CHYFYNGU AR FANNAU AROS LLWYTHO A PHARCIO)

1. Ar 24 Mawrth 2015, yr oedd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan Adranau 1, 2, 3, 4, 32, 35, 45, 46, 53, a 124 a Rhan IV o Atodlen 9 Deddf Rheoli Traffig Ffyrdd 1984, a Rhan 6 Deddf Rheoli Traffig 2004 a phob pŵer galluogi arall, wedi gwneud Gorchymyn y mae ei effaith wedi'i disgrifio isod:

2. Daw'r Gorchymyn i rym ar 30 Mawrth 2015 neu bryd bynnag y bydd yr holl arwyddion a marciau ffordd yn barod. Fe'i hadwaenir fel 'Gorchymyn (Gorfodi Sifil) (Diwygio) (Rhif 5) (Gwahardd Mannau Aros, Llwytho a Pharcio a Chyfyngu ar Fannau Aros, Llwytho a Pharcio) Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2014'.

3. Cewch weld copi o'r Gorchymyn a'r cynllun sy'n dangos y manau dan sylw, yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa.

4. Os hoffech ddadlau'n erbyn dilynswydd y Gorchymyn neu'i ddarpariaethau am na chredwch fod gan y ddeddf uchod bwerau i'w gweithredu, neu am y tybiwch eu bod yn methu â chydymffurfio â gofynion y ddeddf uchod neu un o'i hofferfynau, bydd gennych chiwe ythnos o 30 Mawrth 2015 i wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys i'r diben hwnnw.

Bydd y Gorchymyn Rheoli Traffig canlynol yn cael ei ddiwygio fel a ganlyn:

**Gorchymyn (Gorfodi Sifil) (Gwahardd Mannau Aros, Llwytho a Pharcio a Chyfyngu ar Fannau Aros, Llwytho a Pharcio) 2013 Cyngor Bro Morgannwg.**

**Cynnig ynglŷn â Gwahardd Aros ar Unrhyw Adeg – Cynhwysy y Rhif Cynllun Newydd U40**

**Heol St. Cattwg, Pendeylwyn**

Ar ochr ogleddol y ffordd, o fan sydd oddeutu 9 metr i'r dwyrain o'r gyffordd â Pendoylan Road, ymlaen tua'r de orllewin, o amgylch y tro ac ymlaen wedyn tua'r gogledd orllewin am ryw 23 metr.

Ar ochr ddeheuol y ffordd, o fan sydd oddeutu 9 metr i'r dwyrain o'r gyffordd â Pendoylan Road, o amgylch y tro ac ymlaen tua'r de orllewin am ryw 17 metr.

**Dyddiedig 26 Mawrth 2015.**

M. E. Punter  
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Gweladwy a Thai,  
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Canolfan yr Alpau,  
Gwentô CF5 6AA





# Patch leads the way to Pentyrch

**GERAINT and his sheepdog Patch played host to five female walkers from the Penarth and District Ramblers at Pentyrch on an overcast but dry morning.**

Setting off through fields containing new lambs, through Craig-y-Parc with its tall straight conifers partially obscuring the view over Canada Lake, they strode on to the outskirts of Creigiau.

Following the old disused railway track where wild garlic was peeping through and scarlet elf cup fungi decorated fallen branches, they reached lovely woodland at Ty'n y Coed.

Gradually climbing up to the trig point on Garth Hill, walking the ridgeway past Welsh Black cattle, they dropped steeply onto woodland tracks leading down to Gwaelod-y-Garth.

Muddy paths and wooden footbridges led them through Craig Rhiw'r Ceiliog to a wooden picnic bench for lunch and, descending through the woods, the turrets of Castell Coch were just visible as they reached the small hamlet of Georgetown.

Then, re-entering woodland and crossing the Nant Cwmllywdrew stream with its pretty falls, a boardwalk led them up through Coed y Bedw and crossing a field and the busy Heol Goch, a steep climb up the hillside led them back through houses to their start point.

## Train first and then walks

A RELAXING train journey from Barry, Penarth and Cardiff was enjoyed by the 10 walkers who joined William for his latest adventure, the 15-mile trek along the eastern section of the long distance Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk.

Leaving Lisvane station and passing through the delightful Parc Cefn Onn, they climbed gradually up to the ridgeway before heading east through lovely old beech woods filled with the sound of birdsong.

Stopping for refreshments in Coed Coesau Whips, they noted that during World War Two, members of the Special Duties Auxiliary Unit manned the camouflaged secret wireless bunker that has been uncovered, before heading steeply downhill and across muddy fields on their journey to the ruined Ruperra Castle, built by Sir Thomas Morgan in 1626.

From Coed Craig Ruperra they descended steeply to Draethen and, passing the lovely old farmhouse of Rhyd-y-Gwern crossed the River Rhymney into Machen, before the long pull up through woodland to the highest point of the walk Mynydd Machen, where they paused for lunch in warm sunshine.

Then, descending past a massive spoil tip and through ancient beech and oak woods above the Sirhowy Valley, they followed the ridgeway back across Mynydd Y Grug Common towards Ystrad Mynach.

A narrow track led them into fields and, dropping down to Maescywmmer and crossing the Rhymney Valley by means of the spectacular 16-arched viaduct, they made their way to Hengoed Station for the journey home.

On March 28, you are invited to join a rail ramble leaving Barry at 8.45am and Penarth at 8.47am to arrive at Cardiff Central in order to catch the 9.18am train to Pontyclun, followed by the 11-mile moderate linear walk back to Taff's Well for the journey home; contact William on 01446 747239.

To follow the group, log onto [www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com](http://www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com) Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

Joy Strangward



## Funding boost for Communities First

**THE future of the Vale Council-led anti-poverty programme Barry Communities First (above) has been secured up until April 2016, after just over half a million pounds in additional funding was announced by the Welsh Government.**

The aim is to "improve the health, prosperity and learning" of residents in Buttrills, Cadoc, Castleland, Court and Gibbonsdown wards of Barry.

It has put together projects which include helping job seekers to find work (right), helping year-6 students with the transition to year-7, and helping people to lose weight.



## SCOUT GROUPS IN NEED OF HELP

**LAST weekend, the seven Scout groups in Penarth, Dinas Powys, Sully and Llandough joined together to try and recruit more adult volunteers.**

Said Julian Jordan, District Commissioner: "Scouting is open to young people aged six to 25. We currently are growing faster than we have since the 1970s.

Locally, we have over 500 young people meeting on a weekly basis.

"To keep offering this adventure we need more volunteers, from leaders and helpers on a weekly basis, to trustees and those who can support us on an ad hoc basis."

Contact info@penarthanddistrict.org.uk or 0330 330 1907 or find Penarth and District Scouts on Facebook or Twitter.

## STAINED GLASS FESTIVAL

**THE fourth stained glass window festival takes place at St Paul's Church, Pontyclun, on June 27-28.**

Everyone is invited to take part by making a 'window' out of recycled material. It can be any size. It can be knitted, quilted, made of bubble wrap, pasta, plastic etc. Let your imagination take over.

Bring your finished window to St Paul's Church on Friday, June 26, between 2pm and 6pm, where it will be put in place ready for the start of the festival the following day. All proceeds from the festival will go to church funds.

## RESOLVE it

### EASTER SELF-DEFENCE WORKSHOP AT KINGS MONKTON SCHOOL

Join us in our taster self-defence workshops  
10th April at Kings Monkton School, Cardiff

£6  
FOR 2HRS

AGES  
7 to 11+

Workshop 1: 10-12pm for ages 7-10  
Workshop 2: 12-2pm for ages 11+

KINGS  
MONKTON  
SCHOOL

\*Places are limited. Please register your interest at  
[Academy@resolveitcic.co.uk](mailto:Academy@resolveitcic.co.uk)

[www.resolveitcic.co.uk](https://www.resolveitcic.co.uk) Resolveitcic



## RESOLVE it

### SELF-DEFENCE WORKSHOPS FOR KIDS THIS EASTER

Join us in our taster self-defence workshops  
30th March at Y-Bont Faen Primary School Cowbridge

£6  
FOR 2HRS

7-10  
YEARS

Workshop 1: 10-12pm  
Workshop 2: 12-2pm



\*Places are limited. Please register your interest at  
[Academy@resolveitcic.co.uk](mailto:Academy@resolveitcic.co.uk)

[www.resolveitcic.co.uk](https://www.resolveitcic.co.uk) Resolveitcic





## CLEANING UP AND CLEARING OUT WASTE

**Y**OUR letters have recently contained comments on two types of waste, animal and household.

Firstly, there have been letters from people objecting to horses defecating on the highway.

They should instead think about going out with a bucket and spade to collect what is excellent manure for rhubarb!

The second subject is more serious and concerns the so-called 'Civic Amenity' site at the old Llandow airfield.

I largely agree with the sentiments expressed by a correspondent in last week's issue.

The location is not

well signposted – the access road is a series of potholes, as it has been for years, and the layout of the site itself leads to congestion as car owners struggle, either to leave their items to the height necessary to deposit them in the containers, or to drag them up the rickety steps.

I am 20 years older than Guy Howell Jones and without the kind intervention of one of the site staff, I would have had to take my rubbish back home.

May I suggest that the Vale Council think about bringing the standard of the site up to that found in neighbouring authorities?

That might even reduce fly-tipping.

Edgar Lloyd,  
Cowbridge.

# Readers' Letters

**Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email [gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk](mailto:gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk)**

**LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER.**

**IMPORTANT:** We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

## COUNCIL'S FRUSTRATION OVER CEMETERY APPROACH

**I** AM writing, as the Vale Council's responsible cabinet member, in response to recent letters in The GEM about the use of land at Cemetery Approach in Barry.

I thought GEM readers may appreciate some clarity on where

we are with the site's redevelopment into a community garden.

We are committed to redeveloping the site as a community garden, but the cost of doing this is considerable. We therefore cannot do this on our own.

Our plan had been to dedicate the public open space at Cemetery Approach as a Centenary Field. As well as being a

fitting memorial for those who lost their lives in the First World War, we had hoped that this would allow us to access funding from the Armed Forces Community Covenant Grant Scheme, run by Fields in Trust and the Royal British Legion.

Unfortunately, despite submitting two very strong applications, we have not

been successful in gaining the funding that we need. We are now seeking to work in partnership with Barry Town Council to deliver the community garden together.

Both councils are keen to move forward with the project and to create a relaxing and pleasant space for local people, as well as visitors to the cemetery, to enjoy.

The obstacles that we have encountered so far have proved to be greatly frustrating.

However, this has only strengthened our resolve to deliver the open green space that local residents desire.

While talks with Barry Town Council are still at an early stage, I hope to soon be able to announce a new way forward for the site. Coun Gwyn John, cabinet member for visible and leisure services.

## 'Back open space plan for school'

**P**LANs are being considered to hand over some open space in Barry to a local school and local views are sought over the proposal.

The space in question is between Hannah Street, Court Road and Commercial Road and although always under the remit of education, it has been managed by the Vale parks service.

In recent years, the open space had been gated and the only

access has been to local residents who live around the space. In a bid for the parks department to make savings, as part of the cuts programme, it is now intended to pass it over to Jenner Park Primary school.

The benefits of handing the open space over to Jenner School would mean increased opportunities for outdoor activities for these pupils and it would also be made more secure.

I hope everyone will back the proposal. Richard Bertin, Barry.

*Thank you, kind sirs!*

**I** WOULD like to say 'thank you' to the gentleman who handed my handbag in to Morrisons on Saturday, February 28. Also to another gentleman who found my purse and handed it in to the police – again, many thanks to you both. Cynthia Booker, Barry.

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[www.maesteganimalrescue.co.uk](http://www.maesteganimalrescue.co.uk)  
Charity Number: 1020630

Thanking everyone for their continued support

**I** T was quite depressing to learn that the cash Tony Blair donated to 100 Labour constituencies has been accepted in the Vale.

Quickly we can see the result, with leaflets being delivered not by supporters, but by commercial organisations and newspaper adverts.

Presumably, the decline in people actually prepared to work on a voluntary basis for the party makes this necessary. It's interesting to learn that there are still Blair admirers in the Labour Party.

I'm proud that the Plaid campaign

will be funded entirely from small donations from the people of the Vale.

Labour, under tragically weak leadership, have failed to exploit the Government's failures. They voted to support Tory spending plans for 2015. Then Labour MPs crept through the voting lobbies to support the Tory austerity charter for the next Parliament.

Plaid will not support an austerity budget – irrespective of whether it is the Blue Tories or the Red Tories that introduce it.

Nic Hodges, Barry  
(Plaid Cymru councillor).

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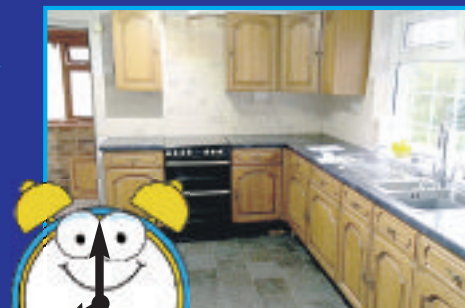
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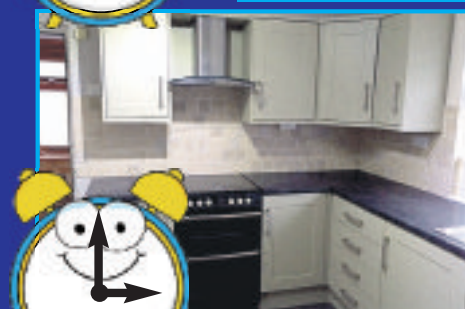
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## Jenner Park pupils enjoy 'bake-off'



JENNER PARK school children enjoyed a fun-packed day in between lessons. The school reported: "Pupils enjoyed baking in the classroom and Mr Morris judged the competition."

## Saints through to Cup semi-finals

**SAINTS brushed aside Railway Wanderers in the Divisional Cup but needed extra time to do so, the final score 4-3.**

Saints took the lead early after striker Darren Townsend beat the offside trap, rounded the keeper and slotted the ball into the empty net.

Railway equalised after a counter attack, soaking up Saints attacks and an early cross found the Railway winger to side foot home.

Barry were knocking on the door and rightfully took the lead again when David A

Evans headed the ball home after a goal mouth scramble from a corner. At half-time the Saints were deservedly in the lead.

In the second half the Saints came flying out of the blocks and Darren Townsend added his second, scoring a half-volley from just inside the area.

Saints then fell asleep and allowed the Railway back into the game. A ball played down the line to the winger saw him square a pass across the goal for an easy tap in.

Railway earned a corner moments later and, with Saints failing to clear their lines, a

deflected shot fell to the Railway striker to sweep home.

With 15 minutes to go the Railway were reduced to 10 men after the midfielder verbally abused the referee.

Saints pushed for the winner and were awarded a penalty. Michael Evans stepped up but his spot kick was saved.

The first half of extra time flew by with both teams barely having chances on goal, but the second half was all Saints and after dominating the game they grabbed the winning goal after a sweeping move.

The ball fell to Nathan Williams who played a high ball around the corner to Townsend. The keeper came rushing out but Townsend headed the ball past the stranded keeper to send the Saints into the semi-finals.

GL

## PAULA TAKES OVER AS MANAGER AT THE MARIE CURIE HOSPICE

FORMER Marie Curie Nurse Paula Elson, from Kenfig Hill, has been appointed as hospice manager of the charity's Cardiff and the Vale hospice and will help lead nurses, carers and

other staff in providing specialist care to around 600 in-patients, 870 out-patients and 2,000 day care attendees every year.

After training at the West Glamorgan School of Nursing, she developed a keen

interest in working with people living with a terminal illness. She took up a role as a palliative care bank nurse at Y Bythyn Newydd in the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, as well as becoming Sister of Ty Bryngwyn Hospice in Llanelli.

During this time, Paula also worked as a part-time Marie Curie nurse, providing care for people at home.

Eventually she went on to become community team leader with the St David's Foundation in Gwent, and also held the position of community

team leader at the Ty Olwen specialist palliative care unit serving Swansea, Neath and Port Talbot.

Among her other career highlights was a seven year stint with the Royal College of Nursing, working with local health boards in Wales to develop clinical leaders, who has headed up the Marie Curie Cardiff and the Vale Hospice in Penarth for three months in an interim capacity, said: "I've always seen Marie Curie as epitomising fantastic palliative care, and I want the hospice to mirror this and continue providing great care for local people. I hope to strengthen and build on the foundations we already have here so we can continue to deliver the high quality care people need and deserve."

"Our job is to care for people with terminal illnesses and make a difference for them and their family at a time that they can't repeat, and I think we're really privileged to be a part of that. For me, coming into this role means I can influence things and make a difference for those people."

Andrew Wilson-Mouasher, divisional general manager for Marie Curie, said: "Paula brings a wealth of experience in nursing, specialist palliative care, nursing leadership and health service management, and I am thrilled to have her on board as hospice manager at the Cardiff and the Vale Hospice."

Paula was born in Maesteg and lives in Kenfig Hill with her partner, Chris.

For more information about the Marie Curie Cardiff and the Vale Hospice, visit [www.mariecurie.org.uk](http://www.mariecurie.org.uk) or call 02920 426000.

### BRIDGE RESULTS

RESULTS for the Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club for March 23:

1st Marion and David Stevenson 58.75%, 2nd= Barbara Easterbrook and Margaret Bancroft 58.33%, and Jane Brook and David Barwood 58.33%.

### THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990  
Town and Country Planning  
(Development Management Procedure)  
(Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/  
Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2015/00134/FUL  
Proposal/Cynnig: Demolition of a single garage and two garden sheds and the erection of a two storey two bedroom detached house on land currently used as a garden.  
Location/Lleoliad: 2, Railway Cottages, Grove Road, Llandow  
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth: Llandow

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2015/00234/FUL  
Proposal/Cynnig: Two storey extension to rear  
Location/Lleoliad: 17, Eastgate, Cowbridge  
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth: Cowbridge

Conservation Area Consent / Caniatâd Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2015/00283/CAC  
Proposal/Cynnig: Development of 79 houses and associated open space vehicular and pedestrian access landscaping and infrastructure, including the demolition of Emmaville  
Location/Lleoliad: Land to the East of St. Nicholas  
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth: St. Nicholas

Application(s) of General Interest/  
Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2015/00086/FUL  
Proposal/Cynnig: Variation of Condition 11 of planning permission ref. 2012/00937/FUL to allow occupation of 20 units, to connect to the public sewerage system, prior to the solution identified in the Hydraulic Modelling Assessment being completed.  
Location/Lleoliad: Land south of the Railway line, Trem Echni, Rhooose Point, Rhooose

Departure from Development Plan/  
Gwyrto o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2015/00242/FUL  
Proposal/Cynnig: Proposed lodge building on redundant rural buildings  
Location/Lleoliad: Brackendene, Burdonshill Lane, Wenvoe

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via <http://vagonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy <http://vagonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Dated / Dyddiedig: 26 March, 2015

M. Goldsworthy  
Operational Manager Development & Building Control,  
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT



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# Spring is the ideal time to see what Cowbridge has to offer

by PHILIP IRWIN

## Fun Foundations' Gold Snack Award

**F**UN FOUNDATIONS Day Nursery is celebrating the Gold Healthy Snack Award Accreditation!

The initiative was introduced to improve diets of the children attending nursery and consists of four areas namely:

- An individualised snack policy.
- The provision of healthy snacks including offering a wide selection of fruit.
- A positive environment – including children sitting at tables with staff eating same snacks.
- Good hygiene practice, with all children and staff washing hands prior to meal times.

The nursery has also been recognised as providing activities that incorporate play and food, such as growing vegetables.

[www.funfoundationsdaynursery.co.uk](http://www.funfoundationsdaynursery.co.uk)

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**T**HE arrival of spring brings a sense of anticipation to just about everyone – it is a time of year when the dark winter days seem much further away and suddenly getting out and about seems much more attractive.

And right at the top of a list of places to visit in the area has to be Cowbridge, with its very own mix of history, distinctive shops and cafe society.

It's not a town where massive developments take place, but there is a constant rota of change and adjustment, whether that be the work that civic societies do around the town to enhance it, or on the

retail front where new companies decide that the town is the place to do business.

There was good news this week when the Vale Council decided to back a scheme to retain the town's cattle market. A number of funding hurdles have to be cleared, but around the existing site could be a new market hall, housing a number of small shops, a community café and a covered open space.

The cattle market, of course, is now a slight misnomer, as it has been confined to sheep for a number of years, but it is still a feature of every Tuesday morning in the town, as farmers bring their livestock to market.

The market plan is a development that the Cowbridge Chamber of Trade is delighted with.

The chairman, Alun John, told The GEM that the town had enjoyed a busy Christmas – perhaps because customers preferred the relaxed atmosphere to the hustle and bustle of a city shopping environment – and now traders were looking forward to the traditional increase in retail activity during March, April and May.

Cowbridge's compact layout, with small side streets leading to unexpected courtyards and alleyways, means that something new is often just around the corner.

What's more, the town has such a wide range of places where you can stop and take a break, that it is easy to do things at your own

pace and stay relaxed.

Whether you want a coffee, a snack, a pub meal, or *haute cuisine*, there is something for everyone in Cowbridge.

One relative newcomer to the town is Beagles, in the Old Mason's Yard, which straddles the river, just along from the town hall.

Owned and managed by Claire Donovan, the store is approaching its first birthday in the town, and she is looking forward to events, such as the May Fayre (on May 4) and later in the month, The Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival (May 24-25).

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 28)



ABOVE: Dave Shewring is the manager at Broadleaf's Eastgate showroom.

## PLENTY TO SEE AT JON IAN...

**J**ON IAN is celebrating 24 years on Cowbridge High street and this year it's certainly not holding back, as the amazing collection of shoes, bags and accessories is proving to be a real show stopper!

As Jon Ian is now concentrating all its designer labels under one roof, you can really appreciate the number of styles that are available, with many designs using

different textures and colours to create that very Italian look.

Also, there is a fantastic colour palette of wedding shoes and bags that manage to complete every outfit for that special day. Jon Ian will be continuing to sell Dubarry shoes and accessories in the main store.

Jon Ian sale shop closes on Saturday, so call in for that last-minute bargain – an opportunity not to be missed!

## Hopkins Law opens up to the community

**H**OPKINS LAW is opening its doors to small businesses and community groups by offering their meeting room to such enterprises for free.

Liane Farthing, director, said: "We appreciate that not everybody wants to conduct their meetings in the local coffee shop and that sometimes a

quiet space is what's needed – which is where our meeting room can be invaluable."

The offer of a meeting room follows Hopkins Law's initiative to offer free Wills and Probate advice in a clinic style format, which has proved to be a winning formula with local residents.

The meeting room is free to anybody who wants to use it – just phone the office on 01446 774151 and find out when it's available.

## Meeting up?



If you're a small business or a community group and you need a meeting room, come and use ours. Free, gratis and for nothing! We like to be able to help...

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## Jon Ian

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# TOWN CATERS FOR ALL YOUR NEEDS



ABOVE: Esther Hitchcock of Jon Ian, with some of the new season stock.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27)

Claire's business ethos is to offer a mix of product that is not found in the chain stores, and also local produce, and she is particularly passionate about the need to support local suppliers.

Offering an extremely eclectic mix of items under the overall banner of 'country store'.

Beagles is definitely a local business that offers

the casual browser plenty of choice - allied to personal service.

A while ago, the adjoining cafe became available, and Claire snapped it up to open Cowbridge's first creperie - offering both savoury and sweet pancakes - and the initial reaction to this new venture has been extremely encouraging.

Claire said: "You can have your own crepe cooked in front of you to your own specification. It's also a great way of feeding a family on a day out!"

Also in the Old Mason's Yard is La

Mercerie, owned by Jean Tait, an Aladdin's Cave for any knitting enthusiast, with a huge range of yarns, buttons and haberdashery.

Although it looks at first glance to be a typical local shop, Jean also serves a wider community, with customers coming from Bridgend, Neath and Swansea because of the depth of stock.

Knitting groups have sprung up, and two meet in the shop on a Wednesday, while Thursday is "troubleshooter day" when knitters can pop in for advice from an expert on any tricky

project that they are working on.

Examples of work by some of the knitting group members are on sale in the shop, and Jean also sells knitting patterns, originally handed in to the nearby Red Cross shop, on behalf of the charity.

Another relative newcomer to the town is Sally Stephenson at the Pencil Case, Eastgate. Sally spotted a gap in the market and has set out to make the shop a must for stationery products for all ages, with an emphasis on the younger market.

She insists that The Pencil case is another example of a local shop that can undercut the big city stores on popular product lines, while offering popular brands to its customers.

Since opening last year, she has extended the product range, adding more school uniforms, making it "a one-stop shop for school age children".

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 29)



ABOVE: Jean Tait with hand-knitted garments at La Mercerie, Penny Lane, in Old Mason's Yard.

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## See what Cowbridge can offer...



Amy Theophilus of Fun Foundations.

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Whilst treatment is completely confidential, a few of my clients have kindly offered to provide testimonials for their treatment programmes with me. They are willing to be contacted and I remain very grateful for their willingness to share their experiences.

- "I can hardly believe how much better I feel since my sessions with Val. I can finally breathe again and take time to feel good about myself. I'm looking forward to getting on with the rest of my life" - Age 47 female.
- "I leave Friday sessions with Val feeling I can achieve anything." - Age 29 male.

Valerie Harmer, Graig Penlllyn, Cowbridge.  
Solution focused combined therapy.  
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#### (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28)

An addition to the range has been an 'age birthday card' stand, offering cards from ages one to 100, inclusive. Whether you need a 37-year-old or an 88-year-old, Sally can supply one!

Jon Ian, specialising in shoes and fashion accessories, is owned by Esther Hitchcock, and is far from a newcomer to the town, having been here for 24 years. Add to that the 43 years of trading in the Morgan Arcade in Cardiff, and you have a considerable retail experience to draw on.

Esther said: "The start of a new season is always exciting, and this year has made a very successful beginning."

As usual, Esther has been to Milan to source the latest Italian fashions and she explained: "This year, the colours are really beautiful, and some of the dual colour combinations are really striking."

"After last year's warm summer, people are champing at the bit to get out and buy for a new season."

Another new arrival in Cowbridge is a Welsh manufacturer, Broadleaf, who have grown to be one of the UK's leading real wood specialists.

Dave Shewring is the manager of their Eastgate premises, and is delighted to show off the company's range of beautiful wood floors, doors and joinery - all made in Wales and with an enviable reputation for quality, value and trend leading design.

After a long search for suitable premises, the company finally moved into Cowbridge in October last year.

Vanessa Garrett, one of Broadleaf's founders, told The GEM: "With its reputation for quality intended shopping and easy access from both Cardiff and the Vale, Cowbridge is an ideal location for our flagship Welsh showroom and we are thrilled to finally be here!"

Norma Davies Opticians opened in December in the town, and can be found in the Old Mason's Yard. Charlotte Lloyd-Davies is the manager and she explained that the company was on the move to the east, as its existing branches are in Llandysul, Carmarthen and Morriston.

She said: "Cowbridge is an attractive town, and it puts us in the market place for people who buy our products and use our services."

"The company has been in business for 40 years, and we offer a full product range, including an extensive range of designer frames, contact lenses, and high quality clinical care."

Another trader who has found Cowbridge a great place to do business is Amy Theophilus, who runs Fun Foundations Nursery.

Amy said: "I used to teach in Y Bont Faen Primary School, and about five years ago I noticed a gap in the market for a nursery".

### THINKING our way to a better future?

We live in a world where there is an epidemic of low self-esteem. It affects almost every aspect of our lives, from how we think about ourselves to the way we think about or react to life situations.

Solution-focused therapy believes that it's not external events that have the most profound effect on our self-esteem, but how we view our own life and life's events. Ultimately, it's what we believe inside that guides our choices and decisions.

As Viktor Frankl (1905 - 1997), psychiatrist and Holocaust-survivor famously said in his book *Man's Search for Meaning*: "Everything can be taken from a man but one thing; the last of the human freedoms - to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way."



Sally Stephenson of The Pencil Case.

It took a year to find suitable premises, but now the business is well established. For Amy, Cowbridge is a perfect town for families. Many of her customers moved to the town for just that reason, and they find it an ideal place to relax after dropping off or picking up their offspring.

Amy added: "It's ideal for the children, with parks, playgrounds and the library as well".

Finally, it was only last week that the latest new shop opened in the town, and behind the smart frontage of Emmaus lies a remarkable story.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 30)



Beagles country store's new creperie, which spans the river.



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EASTER  
SATURDAY



# The town to visit... NO MATTER WHAT TIME OF THE YEAR!

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29)

The charity is well established in Europe, and tackles homelessness by opening houses where people get back on their feet by working together for the charity.

Known as companions, they use the experience to get back into the job market and start a new life.

There are many Emmaus houses in Europe, and there are now 23 in England (Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall is a patron), but the Welsh branch of Emmaus is opening its first (in Bridgend) later this year.

Funds raised by the charity go to meet running costs of the companion houses.

The Cowbridge shop, which looks extremely classy, was opened by the Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Peter Knapp.

Tom Clarke is the director for Emmaus South Wales and he said: "We are delighted to be making Cowbridge part of the Emmaus story."

"Later this year, we will open our first house in Wales and take in 23 companions. Emmaus has always been an organisation that is closely connected to the community, and we welcome any people in the Vale who would like to volunteer in our new Cowbridge shop."

The joint shop managers, Teresa Wood and Jeane Wright, told The GEM that they had enjoyed an "excellent opening weekend", and had received a "warm welcome" from townspeople in Cowbridge.



## Shampan for authentic high quality Indian food

**S**HAMPAN Indian Restaurant and Takeaway has been around since 1983. Recently, it received a Certificate of Excellence for 2014/2015 and was a nominated restaurant for the Tiffin Cup in 2014.

When you look at our restaurant from afar, it would appear more like a house than a bistro: the brick walls, large windows, and bright lights say that there is more to offer once you come inside. As you enter the front door, you are greeted by colourful lights and a warm welcome from our staff.

At Shampan, we offer our guests the highest quality and authentic Indian food. Our award-winning and world-class chef makes sure to capture the rich and flavourful Indian cuisine, from its

aroma up to its taste, down to the very last bite.

Our menu is filled with all the dishes that you are looking for – be it chicken, lamb or prawns. Whether you come to have a quick snack or a full meal, we are ready to serve your gastronomic desires.

More importantly, we value client feedback. Aside from making our dishes delicious, we make sure that every part of our place passes the standards of hygiene. Our loyal customers for the past three decades can attest to the quality of food and service that only Shampan can offer.

Call us today for a reservation, or for more information!

Shampan Indian Restaurant & Takeaway.  
70 Eastgate, Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan;  
Telephone 01446 771682.



Sophie Davies, optical assistant at Norma Davies Opticians. (See page 29).

## Step into spring with Nordic Walk!

**B**AREFOOT Studio is running a 'Learn to Nordic Walk' workshop on April 11 from the studio in Llandow.

"Nordic walking is a fantastic way to get fit and enjoy our lovely Welsh countryside."

"In this two-hour workshop, you will learn how to use the poles to get the most benefit to your fitness."

Afterwards, you can buy poles and walk independently or join one of our weekly classes.

"And if you prefer to exercise indoors, check out one of our Pilates group classes, or Pilates reformer sessions."

"We offer one to one or one to two reformer sessions using a range of Pilates equipment. For more information, call the studio on 01446 775772."

## O'Sullivan Opticians COWBRIDGE EYE CLINIC

**W**E are a family run practice with three branches throughout the Vale – in Cowbridge, Barry, and Rhosce.

We pride ourselves on our customer service and endeavour to serve the entire community. Our friendly and welcoming staff can advise you on our array of services, available at all three of our practices. We don't just do sight tests!

Our services include, amongst others: daily, monthly and multifocal contact lens expertise; low vision examinations for the visually impaired; WECS examinations; SchoolVision examinations to help children with dyslexia and other associated conditions; SportVision examinations to give you the edge in any sport.

Our great range of sunglasses at very competitive prices, including Maui Jim, Ray Ban and Oakley, can be seen on our website at [www.osullivanopticians.co.uk](http://www.osullivanopticians.co.uk).

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Cowbridge Eye Clinic**

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Come and visit us in store to see our great range of designer frames keeping right on trend with the latest fashions including:

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Our new Lightec frames are ultra-lightweight and have no screws in the frames at all! Their innovative design and stainless steel structure makes them ideal for any spectacle wearer.

Our clinic at **89 Eastgate, Cowbridge** is open Monday – Friday, 9:00am – 5:15pm.

For any queries or to book an appointment call us on **01446 772719** or on our website at [www.osullivanopticians.co.uk](http://www.osullivanopticians.co.uk)

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nordic walking

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Pilates is the perfect way to get in shape for summer. Our beginners courses are for just 12 people per class, experienced instructors give plenty of individual attention to ensure you get the most out of each session. Choose from Weds 10:30am, Thurs 7:30pm or Sat 10:30am

## LEARN TO NORDIC WALK

Workshop | Saturday 11 April | 10:30am to 12:30pm | £20

This fun workshop teaches you to Nordic Walk including hill techniques. Poles and expert tuition provided, Get out outdoors and get fit!

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e: [info@barefootstudio.co.uk](mailto:info@barefootstudio.co.uk)

Unit 50, Vale Business Park

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**MOUNTBATTEN RD, BARRY**  
Modern link detached, living/dining room, WC cloakroom, conservatory, sitting room (converted garage), 3 bedrooms, modern fitted kitchen, utility, driveway. ER=D.

**£169,950**



**LEWIS STREET, BARRY**  
Extended modern mid terraced, WC cloakroom, living/dining room, 16ft kitchen/diner, 3 bedrooms, low maintenance rear garden, west end location.

**£154,950**



**HIGHBRIDGE CLOSE, SULLY**  
Much loved family home, village of Sully, 1960's detached home, 2 reception rooms, 22ft kitchen/breakfast, 4 bedrooms, garage, enclosed garden, cul de sac position. No chain, needs modernising, ER=E.

**£339,950**



**MAIN STREET, BARRY**  
Period property, first floor apartment, kitchen/breakfast, shower room, stairs rising to 2nd floor, double bedroom, living room, no chain. ER=C.

**£69,950**



**WINDSOR COURT APARTMENTS, BARRY**  
Placed on the 3rd floor, one bedroomed apartment, approx 554.08 sq ft. Kitchen/diner, 2 bedrooms, family bathroom, lift, gym and residents lounge.

**£99,950**



**SHERBOURNE CLOSE, BARRY**  
Detached dwelling, cul de sac position, living/diner, conservatory, WC cloakroom, 3 bedrooms, larger than average garden, driveway. ER=D.

**£217,950**



**HEOL PANT Y CELYN, BARRY**  
Semi detached, 3 bedrooms, far reaching sea views, option of extending (subject to usual planning consent), modern fitted kitchen & bathroom, ground floor bathroom, viewing recommended. ER=D.

**£134,950**



**GELYN Y CLER, BARRY**  
Well presented, modern elevated, mid terraced, WC cloakroom, living room, kitchen/breakfast, 2 bedrooms, cul de sac position, ER=C.

**£134,950**



**VALE STREET, BARRY**  
Mid terraced traditional, 2 double bedrooms, through living room, first floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden, no chain. West end location.

**£109,950**



**BELL STREET, BARRY**  
Mid terraced traditional, stunning presentation, renovated throughout, 2 bedrooms, living room leading to dining room. Upstairs bathroom. UPVC DG, GCH via combi.

**£119,950**



**ROMILLY ROAD, BARRY**  
Spacious family dwelling, mid terraced Victorian, ground flr: 3 reception rooms, kitchen, garden room. 1st flr: living room (or bedroom 1) bedroom 2, utility (bedroom 3). 2nd flr: master bedroom (ensuite) garage (currently an office)

**£224,950**




**SEAPOINT, BARRY**  
Lower ground floor apartment, stunning sea views across channel, 2 bedrooms, double doors leading to balcony with balustrading, no chain.

**£124,950**



**WESTWARD RISE, BARRY**  
Detached bungalow, placed in private road, 3 bedrooms, WC cloak, living, dining, secluded rear garden, backing onto Porthkerry, driveway/garage.

**£289,950**



**CHESTERFIELD ST, BARRY**  
End of terrace, 3 bedrooms, living/dining room, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, GCH & UPVC DG's, enclosed rear garden, close to schools, shops.

**£105,000**



**CASTLELAND ST, BARRY**  
Mid terraced traditional, 2 reception rooms, feature fireplace in living room, fitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom, 3 bedrooms, recently installed combi boiler. No chain. ER=E.

**£118,000**



**TORBAY TERRACE, RHOOSE**  
Mid terraced traditional, sea views from the 1st floor, living/diner, side access, 3 bedrooms, spacious family bathroom, larger than average garden, no chain. ER=E.

**£149,950**



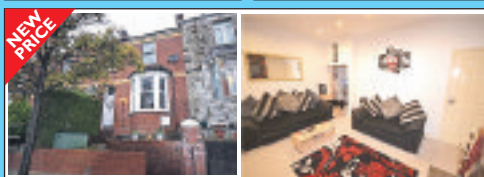
**PENCOEDTRE ROAD, BARRY**  
Mid terraced traditional, living/dining room, modern fitted kitchen/diner, 2 bedrooms (ensuite), family bathroom, raised decked sun terrace, lower laid to lawn area, ER=D.

**£125,000**




**RICHARD STREET, BARRY**  
Mid terraced traditional, amidst all amenities, through living/dining room, replacement fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, first floor spacious bathroom, low maintenance garden, no chain. ER=D.

**£106,950**



**PORTHKERRY ROAD, BARRY**  
Elevated mid terraced traditional, 2 separate reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, first floor bathrooms, well presented throughout, no chain. ER=D.

**£136,500**



**SALISBURY ROAD, BARRY**  
Bay fronted mid terraced traditional dwelling, through living room, 3 bedrooms to 1st floor, fourth bedroom to attic (full regs) enclosed rear garden, minutes walk to Porthcreek Park. ER=D.

**£155,950**



**HERBERT STREET, BARRY**  
Traditional semi detached, well presented, 2 double bedrooms, modern fitted kitchen, living room/dining room, driveway & garage.

**£134,950**



**WESTON STREET, BARRY**  
Extensive works via local authority in 1999, replacement roof, re-wired, replastered floors & ceilings, 2014 replacement central heating, mid terraced traditional, double bay fronted, living/dining room, fitted kitchen, enclosed rear courtyard. ER=D.

**£112,950**



**MAES LINDYS, RHOOSE**  
A stunning modern detached, persimmon built 'Wenvoe' style, living room, dining room, conservatory, fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, utility-integral garage, 4 bed (ensuite), enclosed rear garden, single garage, viewing essential, ER=C.

**£239,950**



**GERDDI MARGARET, BARRY**  
Second floor apartment, 1 bedroom, designated parking, open plan lounge/kitchen, security door entry, well presented, ER=C.

**£84,950**



**TYNEWYDD ROAD, BARRY**  
Substantial end of terrace, original features, ground floor living room, study, cloak, sitting room, dining room & kitchen, 1st floor 4 double bedrooms & bathroom, 2nd floor hobby room. Well presented throughout. ER=E.

**£204,950**



**JENNER ROAD, BARRY**  
Garden apartment, ground floor, 1 bed, well presented throughout, kitchen/breakfast, family bathroom, garden to the front, level rear garden to rear, no chain.

**£97,950**



**WOODLANDS ROAD, BARRY**  
Bay fronted mid, through living room, dining room, 3 bedrooms, hobby room in attic, double garage approx 18ftx16ft. No chain. ER=E.

**£145,950**



**WOODLANDS ROAD, BARRY**  
Period terraced property, spacious living accommodation, through living room, sitting room, 4 double bedrooms, enclosed rear garden, original features throughout, no chain. ER=D.

**£159,950**



**GREENACRES, BARRY**  
End of link terraced, modern build, 3 bedrooms, living room opening to conservatory, enclosed rear garden, parking to side.

**£137,950**



**PORTHKERRY ROAD, BARRY**  
Spacious living, original features, centralised staircase, 3 separate reception rooms, 4 bed, WC, shower room, utility room, far reaching sea views over Bristol Channel, tiered garden to rear. ER=D.

**£184,950**



**ST NICHOLAS ROAD, BARRY**  
Mid terraced traditional, living/dining room, spacious kitchen/breakfast, WC cloakroom, 5 bedrooms, GCH throughout, partial sea views, garage with lane access, well presented, ER=D.

**£214,950**



**HATCH COTTAGE, BARRY**  
Built in 18th century, detached cottage, retaining original features, 2 bedrooms, 2 receptions, raised decked sun terrace, detached hobby room, off road parking, very well presented.

**£164,950**



**THE BEECHES, BARRY**  
Substantial detached dwelling, originally a care home. Ground flr: 3 reception rooms, kitchen, office, WC & shower room, 3 bedrooms, laundry, 2nd flr: 12 rooms, 3 WCs, separate bathroom. No chain, vacant. UPVC DG, GCH.

**£370,000**



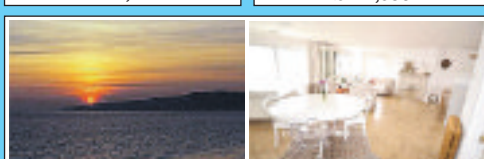
**FONMON ROAD, RHOOSE**  
Traditional dorma detached bungalow. Ground floor: lounge, bathroom, 2 bedrooms, study, 1st floor: bathroom, 2 bedrooms, enclosed rear garden, garage/parking. No chain. Spacious plot.

**£204,950**



**GLEN MAVIS WAY, BARRY**  
3 bed detached dwelling, constructed in the 1960s, living room leading to dining room, sitting room & conservatory, enclosed garden, driveway/garage, viewing recommended ER=D.

**£189,950**



**GLAN HAFREN, BARRY**  
Luxury living on the edge of the beach, 3 bedroom apartment (previously 2), wet room and bathroom fully tiled with marble from floor to ceiling, 2 balconies with panoramic views, 2 garages and ample further parking.

**£275,000**



**HEOL Y GAER, BARRY**  
First floor apartment, 2 bedrooms, enclosed kitchen, far reaching sea views from rear, UPVC DG, GCH via combi, allocated parking, no chain. ER=C.

**£153,950**



**FONMON PARK RD, RHOOSE**  
Modern semi detached, immaculately presented, 2 bedrooms, living room, kitchen, cul de sac position, driveway leading to garage, ample space to side to extend (subject to usual planning permission) ER=C.

**£128,000**



**EITHEN BER, BARRY**  
A well presented 3 bedroom semi-detached, WC cloakroom, living room, kitchen/diner, family bathroom, driveway, enclosed garden. ER=D.

**£177,950**





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## Bowls season wrapped up with finals weekend...

**THE Sully indoor bowls season is coming to an end, culminating in the in-house competitions taking place this weekend, with all ladies and men's finals being held over Saturday and Sunday, March 28-29 at 10am.**

The main events are the singles finals which are being competed for in the ladies by June Best and Carol Willmot, and the men's is between world no.12 Jason Greenslade and the new Welsh international Martin Clark, which is a repeat of last years

brilliant final won by Clarke. There are two sessions on Saturday, 10am and 2pm, with pairs, triples and rinks, and Sunday will kick off in the morning session with two rinks finals followed at 2pm by three singles finals.

The finals will close with a pairs game between Graham Cogbill/Dick Cowling and Martin Clarke/Matthew Woodcock, ending a guaranteed weekend bonanza of bowls.

Supporters are welcome with bar and food facilities available on both days. **FP**

## CLUB HOLDS AN OPEN DAY

**MURCH Bowling Club members are delighted to be celebrating their 25th anniversary this year and founder members are wondering where the years went.**

Over the years the club members have enjoyed many hours playing bowls both at home, at clubs in Wales, England, Scotland, and even as far afield as Canada and South Africa.

They have also had hours of fun at our social events and continue to do so.

The club has several events planned for our celebrations this year, including a special dinner in June.

We would like to

extend an invitation to anyone thinking of trying their hand at outdoor bowls to join us on open day on April 18 at 2pm; overshoes and bowls will be provided.

You will meet some of our existing members who would be happy to discuss with you the merits of the game.

It would also give you a chance to enjoy our excellent facilities.

Bowling is a fun, healthy, friendly pastime which can be played and enjoyed by all ages.

We are situated at the end of Sunnycroft Lane in Dinas Powys.

Our ladies are also having a coffee

morning in our club house on April 11, from 10am to 12.30pm, including bric a brac, nearly new, cake stall, raffle etc.

If you would like more information please contact Roger

Mauchline (vice president) on 02920

513459, Judy Fudge (president) on 02920

515493 or Eileen

Carryer (secretary) on

02920 515568. **EC**

## Athletic are celebrating

**BARRY Athletic Cricket Club are celebrating their 125th Anniversary in 2015 and start the celebrations with a dinner being held at The Masonic Hall, Broad Street, Barry on Saturday, April 18 at 7pm.**

Anyone requiring information can contact the club secretary Mark Rees on 07570135831 or e-mail markrees509@hotmail.com.

They will start their season off with a friendly at home to Dinas Powys on Saturday, April 11, the 1st XI's first

league game is away to Brecon and the 2nd XI at home to Dinas Powys on the Saturday, May 2. The following day, Sunday, May 3, Barry Athletic will be hosting a celebration six-a-side competition at The Athletic Ground with Barry Athletic, Barry West End, Barry Wanderers and Dinas Powys taking part with a 11am start.

The 1st XI's first home league game will be on Saturday, May 9, against the Welsh Asians.

This is sure to be a great season for this historic and iconic club.

**MR**



## YOUR EXCLUSIVE INVITATION TO THE LAUNCH OF OCEAN VIEW.

Join us for the opening of our executive Show Homes and Sales Centre at Ocean View on Saturday 28th March 12-4pm. Enjoy bubbly and canapés whilst taking in the breath-taking views over the Bristol Channel and viewing our superb new Show Homes. Be one of the first to reserve a brand new home at this highly sought-after development.

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## Rob and Tony land bridge title



**Congratulations to Rob Charlesworth and Tony Haworth (pictured to the left in the picture above) who won a very exciting contest to become Welsh pairs champions at the recent national final in Llandrindod Wells.**

They narrowly pipped Tony Disley and Roger Penton (also pictured) to the title, and, with three other Bridgend pairs qualifying for the final, the club was very well represented. Congratulations to all, but especially to Tony and Rob.

The results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent events are:

**Wednesday, March 18:** 1st, Dave Lea and John Evans, 2nd, Geoff Barnes and Peter Bugden, 3rd, Irene Thomas and Graham Jones. Winners on handicap Geoff Barnes and Peter Bugden.

**Thursday, March 19:** 1st, David Newman and Eileen Williams, 2nd, John Evans and David Phillips, 3rd, Leila O'Hagan and Diane Reynolds. Winners on handicap John Henson

and Michael Williams.

**Friday, March 20:** 1st, Jenny Vaughan and Irene Thomas, 2nd, Jane Brook and Wendy Williams, 3rd, John Henson and Terry Dolan. Winners on handicap Jenny Vaughan and Irene Thomas.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Noltan Church Hall. Play is scheduled to commence at 7pm so it helps if players arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, also at Noltan Church Hall, there is a gentle duplicate session. Master points are now awarded but it remains a relaxed occasion where players enjoy their bridge.

Further information can be obtained by calling Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968, John Evans on 01656 880372 or David Newman on 01656 649138.

Members can also take advantage of the 'tip of the week' on the club website, primarily to assist new players and improvers. This can be found under bridge lessons in the left hand menu. **TG**

## Porthcawl bridge club results

**PORTHCAWL Bridge Club recently held its annual competitions for the ladies pairs (Gaskell Cup) and the men's pairs (Cornish Cup).**

The ladies winners were Trish Saunders and Pat Cogbill, and the men's winners were Gary Williams and Tony Haworth.

Other latest results are:

**Saturday, March 7:** First - Wendy Williams & Tony Haworth; second - Roger Draper & Connie Dick. **Monday, March 9:** First - Peter Bennett & Jean Hughes; second - Peter & Sandie Jenkins.

**Thursday, March 12 (ladies' pairs):** First - Trish Saunders & Pat Cogbill; second - Sue Anthony & Janet

Richards; men's pairs - Gary Williams & Tony Haworth; second - Keith Davison & Maurice Harris.

**Saturday, March 14:** First - Trish Saunders & Janet Richards; second - Betty Longley & Roger Plant. **Monday, March 16:** First - Gary Williams & Tony Haworth; second - Peter Bennett & Jean Hughes. **Thursday, March 19:** First - Tony Haworth & Richards; second - Terry Dolan & Roger Plant.

The club meets three times a week - Saturday and Thursday at the Awel-y-Mor centre, and Monday at the Glamorgan Holiday Hotel, 7pm -10.15pm - visitors welcome at any time.

To contact the club, call our secretary, Trish, on 01656785794. **TH**

## Athletic and Maesteg compete in entertaining 'friendly'

**MAESTEG and Bridgend Athletic set up a midweek friendly to gain rugby time during the Six Nations.**

Both sides can take positives from the fixture in an entertaining game in which Maesteg played a full part. The Athletic won the game 36-14 but were made to battle for the victory with Maesteg looking to run the ball from all parts of the pitch.

The Athletic had the best of the opening quarter and opened up a 17-0 lead through tries from centre Tom Morgan, wing Stuart Griffiths and Jake Williams and a conversion by full back Dan Howells. Maesteg finished the half strongly and were rewarded with a converted try.

Maesteg started the

second half strongly but an interception try by Athletic centre Michael Hathaway converted by Dan Howells gave first blood to the visitors.

Lock Tom Penry-Ellis then crossed for the fifth Athletic try. Dan Howells sprinted from his own 22 for the sixth Athletic try and Scott Govan converted to open up a 36-7 advantage.

Maesteg then gained their own interception try to make the final score 36-14.

The Athletic blooded four youth players during the game, Matthew Bennett, Sean Wilcox, Tom Jenkins and big prop Zack, who was hugely impressive in the scrums and rucks.

All played well and indicated that there is a conveyor belt of the next generation Athletic players. **AB**

## Sporting chance with the local Girls' Network!

**THE local Girls' Network took over Bridgend's Brewery Field recently for an innovative event with talks, activities and workshops on sports and physical activity for women and young girls.**

The Network, supported by BCBC's Active Young People's department and BAVO, spread the word about a new 'pass it on' campaign, which asks one person to encourage three other people to be more active by doing a good deed for them.

The activities included a fun element for pupils and staff from Maesteg, Brynteg, Bryntirion, Pencoe, Cynffig and Porthcawl secondary schools, as well as a cross section of representatives from partner organisations.

Samar Wafar, of Sport Wales, spoke about confidence and team work being transferrable into the workplace, and Helen Phillips, Chair of Welsh Gymnastics and the Commonwealth Games Committee, advised young girls to have a personal development plan and recognise dreams and ambitions, telling them: "You have an opportunity to inspire and influence the next generation."

The girls' network was set up after the research revealed a drop-off in sport when girls reach secondary school. To date, the network has been responsible for

changes to PE kits, adaptations to changing rooms and gyms, and varying the choice of physical activities available within participating schools.

Maesteg pupil Georgia Davies said: "At Maesteg we have recently put on an after school club called 'Us girls' where we could sample a range of sports, with rollerblading proving to be the most popular."

Fellow pupil Angharad Stokes added: "When we launched the programme, we had around 130 girls from years seven, eight and nine attending the activities in the first week, which was a great turn-out."

## Junior Youth Speaks in Rotary competition



**Jasmine David accepts the Shield.**

**BRIDGEND Rotary Club held its annual competition at Croestry Primary School on Thursday, March 19. It was a very exciting event with 11 primary schools competing for the Rotary Shield awarded to the winner.**

Each competitor chose his/her topic and presented it to the audience. Diverse subjects such as Drones, Superheroes,

The impact of poverty on education and Winston Churchill were presented in an interesting and lively manner.

The standard of the speakers was exceptional, making it a very difficult task for the adjudicators.

The event was well attended by parents, teachers, friends and Rotarians to make for a friendly evening and an audience who offered great support to the pupils on stage.

The final result was that Jasmine David of Tremauns Primary School was declared the winner on the evening. Jasmine presented a lively and persuasive argument to convince her audience that 'More boys should be

encouraged to become involved in dance'.

Jasmine was presented with the Shield and a gift voucher by President Susan Cassidy of Bridgend Rotary Club.

David Sheldon from Pencoe Primary School

was also awarded a prize as the runner-up on the night. He offered an extremely interesting and engaging point of view on 'School Attendance'.

The whole evening was a great success and

was enjoyed by all those present. Bridgend Rotary Club wish to thank all of those students who took part to make it such a wonderful competition.

**GILL HALE.**

## The Kenfig Hill youth make plate progress

**KENFIG HILL youth put on a good display of attacking rugby to beat a solid Maesteg Quins 46-10 and reach the next round of the District Plate.**

There was some confusion prior to the game, whether this was a quarter-final or semi-final game, and apparently the jury is still out.

The Mules youth welcomed back into their squad Luke Griffiths and Aaron Grabham who had both been enjoying runs in the club's first XV and they both stamped their class on this match.

The game was played in good spirits with lots of the action taking place in each team's 22.

The Maesteg Quins No 10 played an intelligent kicking game during a close first half and continually pegged the Mules into the corner.

However whenever the Mules speedy backs had clean possession they were able to make good ground only to be thwarted by a scrambling Quins defence.

The Mules outscored the Quins by three tries to one in the first half with Lewis Nolan, Jay Tame and centre Luke Griffiths crossing the whitewash

with one conversion from scrum half Connor Tantom.

The Quins replied with an unconverted try following a number of driving mauls to leave the score 17-5.

Speedster Grabham joined the proceedings in the second half and he proved to be a thorn in the Quins defence every time he was involved in the game.

The Mules dominated the second half scoring a further four tries from Aaron Grabham, Connor Tantom, Lewis Rees and a second for centre Luke Griffiths. Connor Tantom added two conversions and a penalty to leave the Mules 46-5 ahead until the final minutes.

However the Quins' attitude was faultless and following concerted pressure the referee had no hesitation in awarding them a penalty try. Bizarrely the conversion attempt was charged down by the Mules which is a questionable action following a penalty try.

The Mules' coaching staff decided to award the man of the match to live-wire hooker Lewis Rees for yet another skilful and committed performance. **DHD**

## Sports under-15s finally beat the Seaweeds!

**AFTER eight seasons of trying Bridgend Sports under-15s can finally say that they have beat Porthcawl.**

The signs of this illusive victory have been edging a lot closer this season as the previous three fixtures between the two sides have produced a hard fought draw and two defeats by no more than five points. The Sports once again turned up in good numbers this weekend with a squad of 22.

Both teams had spells of territory early on, in a bid to open the scoring. The first try is always important in tight games and this match was certainly no exception.

The Sports soon earned the reward of scoring the first try of the game when flanker Rhys Kelly showed good endeavour and determination to crash over the try line to the left of the posts.

With the Sports now leading by five points, it was clear to see that the first try had settled the boys down and gave them the confidence to go on and extend their lead.

This flair was soon epitomised by a well-

worked try by the backs, which saw outside half Will Prosser draw in the Porthcawl defender to play the ball to centre Drew Price who was now in the space needed to finish off the move by scoring in the corner.

But crucially for Porthcawl, they responded quickly by scoring a try of their own which them a way back into the match. This try saw one of their players breaking the Sports defensive line to score in right hand corner of the pitch.

The Sports then closed out the remaining minutes of the first half to go into halftime leading by 10 points to five.

There was still plenty of second half work to be done if the Sports were to claim a maiden victory over Porthcawl.

The Sports took full control of the second half by having lots of territory and possession deep inside the Porthcawl half.

This was definitely the type of rugby needed from the Sports in order to close out the game, as it limited the home side's opportunities to get back in the game.

The Sports then converted this valuable territory into points which extended the Sports lead to over a converted try.

This compelling moment came when the Sports were rewarded for their decision to kick to touch from a penalty. From the resulting lineout Number 8 Calum Reape charged over the line just in from the touchline to give the Sports a 10 point lead.

However, there was still a final twist to come in this enthralling game when one of the Porthcawl players ran through the Sports defence at pace to score a converted try which set up a nervy finish for the Sports.

There was now three minutes left on the referee's clock for the Sports to defend a narrow three-point lead.

The Sports then successfully did this to achieve their aim of beating Porthcawl by the slender score of 15-12.

Overall, this victory is really pleasing for the Sports, as it shows how far they have come as a team. Also the Sports can take a lot of positives from this game which can be used in this week's Ospreys Cup Bowl semi-final against Bryncheithin, which is likely to be yet another close game. Well done, boys!

**TP**



## Skaters' sponsored event plenty of fun!



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**GLAMORGAN Artistic Roller Skating Club** skaters recently participated in the hour-long, non-stop sponsored pyjama skate to help raise money for the club.

All the skaters had a great night taking part in various games and activities, including relay races, musical statues, follow the leader and the club dances - Gangman Style, 5678 and the big favourite Superman.

All received a certificate to show they had completed the event, and over £300 was raised by the skaters which was a fantastic result!

The coaches would like to thank the parents for all their help and support without such great members and their families the club would

not be such fun to attend and also a big thank you to all the skaters for making it such a great evening.

If anyone is interested in joining, and you are between the ages of 5 - 75, please see our Facebook page,

Glamorgan Artistic Roller Skating Club, or our website, Glamorgan-artistic-webs.com.

You can also pop into our Tuesday session, held at Colcot sports hall, Barry, between 6pm-8pm to see what we are all about!

AG

## Student Hector's first winner was Always A Chance!

**OXFORD Brookes University student Hector Worsley chalked up his first winner on the Jonathan Tudor-trained ex-Irish gelding Always A Chance at the North Ledbury Hunt Point-To-Point held on H e r e f o r d Racecourse on Sunday.**

Hector's mount won division two of the maiden race and is owned by his mother, former MFH Georgie Howell. Always A

Chance unseated stable companion eight-year-old bay gelding Distant Sound partnered by Evan David.

Barber also won the open maiden race on Debbie Faulkner's Hellesbells. Charlotte Prichard took the ladies' open race on the odds-on favourite Minella Fifty.

**ANDREW'S 1-2**  
*Bridgend's Andrew Leyshon saddled the winner and the second in the restricted race at the Wilton Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Milborne St Andrew last Saturday.*

His six-year-old bay gelding Fine Resolve, ridden by Matthew Barber, finished ahead of his Llangeinor Hunt

**WINS FOR EVAN AND TIM AT CHEPSTOW**

*Vale trainers Evan Williams and Tim Vaughan both had winners at Chepstow Racecourse last Thursday.*

Evan was successful with Forgiveness, which won the three mile handicap hurdle under Adam Wedge, and Tim's recent winner Tanit River, ridden by Alan Johns, took the two mile handicap hurdle.

Evan, who had taken the opener at Warwick 24 hours earlier with King's Odyssey, made it a cross the cards double when his Armchair Theatre, ridden by Connor Ring, won the bumper at Ludlow where he is the leading trainer.

King's Odyssey was ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney.

**BRIAN LEE**

## Barry & District men's skittle league

### DIVISION 1:

Barry Park 'B' (A.Martin 30) 269, 49'ers (G.Yarr 29) 282; Blue Monkey (N.Stokes 33) 289, Mighty Dockers (D.Morgan 29) 287; Cavaliers (R.Thomas 32) 296, Bunker Boys (S.Hobbs 30) 281; Geest (L.Galsworthy 32) 268, The Merrymen (A.Pearce 29) 270; Park Lads (D.Morgan 27) 286, Park Rangers (J.Goldsby 34) 285; The Merrymen (A.Pearce 37) 309, Cavaliers (S.Larsen 30) 296; West End Stars (D.Beattie, A.Davies 27) 267, Ex-Servicemen (D.Dawkins 30) 277.

### DIVISION 2:

BP Breakaways (J.Mills 27) 270, Abercete (R.Mountjoy 29) 267; Buffs Exiles (S.Page 29) 248; Tynwydd Lads (D.Kerslake 28) 262; Exiles (J.Miles, A.Ladner, I.Ladner 26) 278, Barry Social (B.Allen 28) 291; Road Runners (A.Gunn 28) 238, Tynny Fliers (J.Walters 24) 232; Sea View (A.Elston 31) 286, Exiles (S.Moore 34)

300; The Royalists (M.Roberts, G.Davies 29) 272, Posties (M.Gillimore 29) 277; Tynny Fliers (S.Taylor 33) 300, BP Breakaways (J.Rees 29) 287; Tynwydd Lads (S.Germon 28) 281, Witchill Poachers (R.Tamlyn, S.Rogers, F.Mathews 28) 284; Willie Wombles (I.Draizey 27) 264, Sea View (T.Stokes, B.Belby 29) 289; Witchill Poachers (D.Richardson 37) 348, Witchill Wizards (M.Royal 37) 340.

### DIVISION 3:

British Rail (G.Percy 31) 273, Cannon Balls (A.Sparks, L.Newland 28) 280; Cannon balls (I.Forsyth 33) 295, C.U.D.(B.Saif 33) 287; Castle Boys (G.Brook 31) 274, Billy Whizz (K.Hunt 28) 268; 'H' Bells (B.Whitlock 31) 276, British Rail (D.Slugg 29) 266; The Alternatives (P.Roderick 31) 275, C.U.D.(B.Roberts 29) 265; West End Fliers (W.Nicholls 27) 251, 'H' Bells (E.Collier 28) 275.

**HR**

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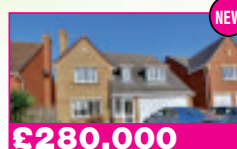
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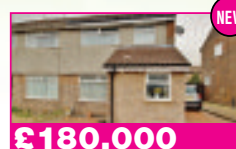
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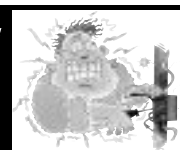
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Please email [barryislandsps@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:barryislandsps@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk) or send a letter to the school, Barry Island Primary, Clive Road, Barry, CF62 5UZ for the attention of the Chair of Governors, Mr David Vining by Friday 17th April.

If you would like to find out more about the role, please ring the school and ask to speak to the acting head teacher Miss Rebecca Cadman.

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# GEM FAMILY NOTICES

## DOWLING Carol Anne

Suddenly on Sunday 15th March 2015, at her home in Clerkenwell, Central London, aged 46 years.

Beloved and devoted life partner of 25 years to Steve Ratcliff, much loved daughter of Tona Dowling and the late June (William) Dowling, cherished sister, auntie and loyal friend to many. For funeral arrangements, scheduled for Friday 27 March at 2.45pm at The Parish of our most Holy Redeemer, Exmouth Market, Clerkenwell, London, EC1R 4QE, contact A. Frame Funeral Directors of Lambs Conduit Street, WC1. Tel : 0207 4054901

## Sheppard-Jones Kathleen

Passed away peacefully on 21 March 2015 at the Princess of Wales Hospital, surrounded by family. Much loved mother of David and mum-in-law of Sue. Loved grandmother of Sarah, Rachel, Nathan and David and their spouses. Great grandmother of Enzo.

Will be greatly missed by all who loved and knew her. Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Tuesday, 31 March 2015 at 10.30am. Family flowers only, but donations may be made to Ty Hafan Children's Hospice.

## BATT Leighton

Died tragically on 20 March, 2015.

Forever in our hearts  
God Bless You  
Night, Night Leighton  
Love you always

Nanny Hazel Mary & Bampy Roy xxx

## WHITAKER Jonathan Stone (Jon)

Suddenly, but peacefully, at home in St Brides super Ely on March 11, Jon, aged 72 years, beloved husband of Anna and devoted father of Solde (Zolly).

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday March 30, service and interment 2.30pm at St Brides Church, St Brides super Ely. No flowers but donations if you wish to British Red Cross to support their work in Syria through [www.giving.com/Anna-Whitaker](http://www.giving.com/Anna-Whitaker).

## WEBBER Mary (Nee Thomas)

Peacefully on Sunday, March 15 at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Mary of Sandpiper Road, Porthcawl. Beloved wife of the late Harry, dearly loved mother of Julia and Derek, much loved grandmother of Jamie and Diane and great grandmother of Lauren, Eva and Ella.

Funeral service at Margam Crematorium on Monday, March 30 at 1.30pm. Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if desired, to RNLI c/o Gareth and Rhodri Howell of Esais & Son Funeral Directors, 39 Bridge Street, Kenfig Hill, CF33 6DB, telephone 01656 740491.

## WHITE John

Peacefully in his sleep on March 23, John, aged 82 years. Loving partner of Betty.

John will be dearly missed by all the family and his many friends.

Resting in the private chapel of The Vale Funeral Home, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium on Thursday, 2 April at 11am. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home. Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis at The Vale Funeral Service, 01446 407962.

## PAYNE Leon Ashley

Deep in our hearts, a memory is kept of one we loved and shall never forget.  
Love from Mum and sister Emma.

## GUNTER Harry Brinley

Suddenly at home on 19th March 2015, Harry aged 91 years, beloved husband of the late Marie, much loved dad of Clive, Valerie, Barry and Terry, also loved by Sue, Jackie and Maria, a cherished grampy to his grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son until the funeral service on Wednesday 1st April 2015 at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium at 1pm. Family flowers only.

## WARD Dorothy

Peacefully on March 18 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Dorothy passed away after a short illness.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Wednesday April 1, service 2.15pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home, donations in lieu, if desired, to British Heart Foundation, c/o Jack Hawkins, 10 Percy Smith Road, Boverton, Llantwit Major, CF61 1GW.

## WILLIAMS William Glyn

Sadly at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend on Sunday, March 8, 2015, surrounded by his family. Glyn, of Blaen Dewi, Wick. Devoted husband of Mary, much loved father of Christine and Mike, loved and respected father-in-law of Ken and Lynne, adored grandfather of Jon and Kate. Family flowers only, by request. Friends please meet for the service on Monday, March 30, 2015 in Coychurch Crematorium at 1.15pm. All enquiries to Rosemount Funeral Home, 19 Coychurch Road, Bridgend, CF31 3AP, telephone 01656 653156.

## CAWLEY William Edgar (Edgar)

Peacefully at home on March 19, Edgar, aged 93 years, sadly passed away. Much loved uncle of Gloria and Barry Cawley, also a dear friend of Andrea and Greg Payne.

Resting at The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Wednesday, April 8 at 11am. Family flowers only, donations if desired, may be sent to Marie Curie Hospice, Penarth. Funeral arrangements entrusted to Nicola Ellis 01446 407962.

## DANCEY Flora Enid

Jayne, Penny and Brian would like to thank family, friends and neighbours who attended Enid's funeral and helped to celebrate her life, she will be greatly missed. A special thank you for all the cards, flowers and messages of sympathy received.

Many thanks also to Lyndsay and the Vale Funeral Service for all their help and to the Reverend Duncan Ballantyne for conducting such a lovely service.

## JOHN Jayne Susan

Peacefully on 19 March at home surrounded by her loving family. Jayne, dearly beloved wife of Nicholas, adored and devoted mother to Aimee and Bradley, a wonderful friend to all that knew her.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. A celebration of Jayne's life will be held at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge on Friday, 27 March at 1pm, followed by private cremation. No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to Velindre Hospital c/o J. James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhosce, CF62 3DZ.

## OSBORNE Elizabeth (Betty)

The family would like to express their sincere thanks to all who have supported both Betty during her illness and the family following her passing. For all the cards, messages of comfort and charity donations received. A beautiful service was led by Reverend Challis in recognition of Betty's lifetime achievements. The family were overwhelmed to see so many friends and family members, not forgetting the many who unfortunately were unable to attend but had Betty in their thoughts that day. The sun was shining, the voices were singing and the Church was full of love. The family would also like to extend their thanks to Lyndsay Ellis from Vale Funeral Service for all his kindness, sincerity and true compassion shown in arranging the funeral. Thank you all.

## MILLER

Arthur and Liam O'Leary wish to convey their heartfelt and sincere condolences to Joanne, Dave and Iestyn on their very sad loss and to the families of all involved in this tragic incident.

## Lost & Found

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## Public Notices

## Public Notice

Anyone knowing of a will for Stephen George Beazer, died December 8 2013. Lately of 70a Victoria Avenue, Porthcawl, Bridgend, CF36 3HE. Please contact Finders on 0800 085 8796

## KATHARINE REMY LLOYD-JONES (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Flat 4 North Road Mews Cowbridge CF71 7DF, who died on 28/08/2014, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 29/05/2015, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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# A BUSY YEAR FOR MEMBERS OF THE BARRY YACHT CLUB

**IN his report to Barry Yacht Club's recent annual general meeting, the sailing secretary, Brian Dotchon, reviewed the sailing activities during 2014.**

The weather during the season was somewhat mixed. There were many very good sailing days but no long settled spell to encourage extensive cruising. The good days were very good with clear skies and hours of sunshine but there was often more wind than required.

Brian thanked the strong support received from many members in this his first year as sailing secretary and this made the task of organising the racing activities much easier. The cruising events were in the very capable hands of Ray Brown, the cruiser class captain.

Dealing firstly with the club racing programme Brian reported that the season got off to a great start with the Bristol Channel Race for sailing pilot cutters.

The small fleet raced down to a buoy off Ilfracombe before returning to Barry via a buoy off the Gower. Following a lunch at the club three of the cutters then raced down to Swansea. The cutters provided a fine spectacle in the pleasant weather over this weekend.

The points race series was very successful with nine of the scheduled 11 races completed. The two cancelled races were both points races and these succumbed respectively to an absence of competitors and extreme weather.

All of the Trophy Races were held although the Kindly Light Race had no finishers. It had been intended to set up a personal handicap system to provide a separate series of results, giving the less experienced helmsmen a better chance of success.

This was to run parallel with the normal seasonal points series. This proved impossible but with the assistance of the handicapper, Nick Hill, it is hoped that success will be achieved in 2015.

The trophies for the 2014 season were either

awarded immediately after the event or at the annual dinner.

**The winners were as follows:**

*Sam Davies Race - Dolly Kedge, Jeff Davis; Regatta 1st Tomahawk, Martin Rudkin; 2nd Sunny Lyn, Martin Wyatt; 3rd Kiskadee, Don Merrifield. RNLI Penant Race - Shadow, Simon Morgan (sailed by Steve Sutton); Holms Race - Sally Loper, Brian Dotchon; Highlight Race, Pepper, Bill Hogg (Porlock Weir SC); Summer Points Series - 1st Shadow, Simon Morgan (sailed by Steve Sutton); 2nd Sally Loper, Brian Dotchon; 3rd Dolly Kedge, Jeff Davis.*

A total of 20 different boats entered one or more of the points series races which is a significant increase on 2013.

A total of 12 started the Regatta race and 15 Barry boats started the Highlight Race where there were seven visiting boats. However, the average turnout remained more or less the same as the previous year at 6.4 boats. The Old Seadogs Race had five entries and the Top Dog is Lyn Reeve.

## DODGEMS!

The Highlight Race was, as its name suggests and for various reasons, the highlight of the racing season. The very encouraging turnout of 22 boats was set a challenging course by the OOD Justin Taylor.

Difficulties existed for both the experienced and not so experienced racers. There were many marks to round with relatively short intervening legs and this led to several collisions both with marks and with other competitors.

It is rumoured that during the presentation of prizes after the race, the Commodore's Lady, Wendy Webb, was heard to mention something about "dodgems". However, it must be said that everyone seems to have thoroughly enjoyed the experience and no-one suffered any serious damage.

Brian recorded returning with a very red face after managing to hit the Lavernock Spit buoy hard enough to instigate an insurance claim. Justin was congratulated for his efforts in setting an unusual challenge.

His team of race officials gave him excellent support and the club itself was certainly buzzing after the race.

Brian then turned to the cruising activities of club members and indicated that they had cruised very considerable distances during 2014.

Roger Lloyd in *Katy Dee* cruised the English Channel as far as Fecamp in the east and then back again via Cherbourg, the Channel Islands, northern Brittany and the Scillies. Roger was singlehanded for all but the outgoing passage to Cherbourg and for short periods inside the Rance Barrage and at the Scillies.

In her inimitable style Cynthia Norman in *Down Homer* sailed singlehanded from Milford up the Irish Sea to the west coast of Scotland before

visiting the Orkneys and Shetlands on her way to Norway.

She set off mid May and spent five weeks in Norway with glorious weather before returning by more or less the same route to Milford at the end of September.

## CORINTH CANAL

Jim Barton in *Tresillion* continues to cruise the eastern Mediterranean and this year traversed the Corinth Canal after leaving his winter quarters near Athens.

He then cruised the Gulf of Corinth and visited a number of ports and Corfu before laying up at Preveza on the Greek mainland. He covered a total of 750 nautical miles this year which is somewhat less than his usual total.

The club treasurer, Howard Metcalfe, purchased a splendid new power boat, *Breaksea*, early in the summer. This was built at Aalst in Belgium and he motored it back to its base in Cardiff in June.

He visited Hellevoetsluis in Holland, Ramsgate, Portland, Dartmouth and Newlyn on the way, covering a total of 670 nautical miles.

Owen and Jan Davies in *Shiraz* sailed to the South Coast of England visiting Falmouth and other ports before crossing to northern France and back via the Channel Islands.

Neil Burton and Penny Arnold in *Peggy* visited a number of Bristol Channel ports when going to and from Falmouth, Helford and the Scillies. They were accompanied by a number of family members at different times during this cruise. Clive Spierling in *Senara* made his usual return passage to Fowey and, with Val, visited Falmouth and various other ports during the summer.

Ian Harris sold *Sulis* in the early summer and, after much delay caused by poor weather, delivered the boat to Cork in southern Ireland for the new owner.

Nick Koops and his crew in *Siglo* left Barry early in the season and cruised down the north Cornish coast before crossing the English Channel to Camaret in the Brest estuary. They then proceeded south and visited a number of ports and off-lying islands in Biscay before reaching the Dordogne estuary. Nick was joined by Sue before entering the Canal Du Midi at Bordeaux. They then followed the canal down to the Mediterranean where the boat is presently wintering. Nick and Sue entered a log of their trip for consideration for the annual cruising award, the Lord Cope Cup. Several other members also submitted entries but their log was considered the best and they received the trophy.

Peter Stoker in *Verity* sailed from Barry in late May and travelled along the English Channel and ultimately to St Katharine's Dock, London and back. Peter was singlehanded for most of this trip but was joined by his son Simon for short periods.

Peter encountered the usual variety of British summer weather conditions and returned home by train on several occasions. The boat eventually returned to Barry at the beginning of September after covering more than 1,200 miles and visiting a total of 33 different ports and anchorages. This was considered to be an outstanding achievement and Peter was awarded the Seafarer Trophy for seamanship.

## LOCAL BOWLS CLUB WELCOME NEW PLAYERS

**BARRY Athletic Bowling Club is a private club situated on Barry Island and forms part of the Barry Athletic Sports complex comprising tennis, cricket and football - it even has its own brass band!**

The new season starts on Saturday, April 11 at 2.30pm and we would very much like to welcome new members male and female whether a complete novice or experienced bowler to come along and meet the team and sample the game of bowls (weather permitting).

All you will need is a pair of flat heel-less shoes and we will provide the rest. We have one of the finest bowling greens in the area which is professionally maintained to a very high standard.

Come along and have a go, you might enjoy yourself. There is no age limit and it is very good exercise for the elderly. We have qualified coaching staff waiting to show you the ropes so, if you wish, you can contact me for further details on 01446 410708 or email clive.cottrell@virginmedia.com.

The spring general meeting takes place on Thursday, April 9, at 7pm.

A number of other boats cruised to ports outside the Bristol Channel and these included Rob Curtis in *Twelfth Night* to Padstow and Dale, Nick Phillips in *Merlin* as far as Fishguard, Derek Irish in *Mist* and Colin Brooks in *Magic* to Milford Haven. Many members cruised to ports within the Channel for holidays and in order to attend the Bristol Channel Yachting Association (BCYA) rallies and various festivals.

The first of the cruises in company arranged by Ray Brown was to Woody Bay. Regrettably only four boats participated and this may have been due to the overcast conditions at the scheduled start time. However, the weather quickly improved and they had some splendid sailing in relatively light conditions under blue skies. Only Mike Radford in *Lesmar* reached the objective but everyone enjoyed a wonderful day afloat.

The cruises to the BCYA events at Cardiff Bay and Watchet were well attended. The entertainment was very good and was appreciated by all who joined the fleets. The cruise to Portishead became, instead, a cruise to Bristol Docks which was attended by several boats and was very enjoyable. The usual trip to Bristol in November was also well attended.

Arrangements for the 2015 racing programme are in hand and it will follow the usual format of trophy and points races. Several owners have requested a long distance overnight race and this will be included.

Ray Brown will again be organising a series of cruises in company for the coming summer and it is hoped that even more boats will participate. In addition to the usual cruise destinations it is hoped to arrange a visit to Minehead.

Brian's report indicated that 2014 had been very successful season for Barry Yacht Club with a good balance between racing and cruising activities.

If you would like further details about the club please phone 01446 735511 (with answerphone) or see our website [www.barryyachtclub.co.uk](http://www.barryyachtclub.co.uk).

BD

## Sully bridge club results

### MONDAY March

#### 16, North/South:

1st = Peter Millar/Trish Tracy 57.18, 2nd = Evarard Kerslake/Roger Cradick 57.18, 3rd Alan Jones/Carolyn Matthews 56.94. East/West: 1st Merion Avon/Dorothy Foulkes 56.71, 2nd Carol Cochlin/Val Davies 53.24, 3rd Sean Macdougall/Una Gavin 52.31.

Wednesday, March 18, North/South: 1st Bunty Wiseman/Anne Johns 68.43, 2nd Trish Tracy/Mike Hurst 62.34, 3rd

Brian Gardner/Gareth Stone 62.02. East/West: 1st Peter Millar/Anne Hurst

60.42, 2nd David Hopkins/Lilian Hopkins 58.91, 3rd Pat James/Penny Jones 54.33.

Saturday, March 21, North/South: 1st Trish Tracy/Peter Millar 64.88, 2nd Pam Sherman/Shirley Powell 64.29, 3rd Hazel

EK

## Barrivale news

**THE results from Barrivale Bridge Club for March 17 are as follows:**

First, Debbie and Simon Richards 64.58 per cent; second, Mark Roderick and Noelle Bond 61.98; third, Jenny Vaughan and Mike Close 57.81.

Mark Roderick and Noelle Bond won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required. Telephone 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

DR

## The Barry & District league tables and results

### CRIB DIVISION 1:

Railway 8, Wyndham Cons 7; Rhoeuse Social 5, West End Wanderers 10; Moors Boys 8, Cadoxton Cons 7; Liberals 8, West

Wyndham Cons A 1; Rhoeuse Social B 3, Harbour A 2; Savoy A 3, West End C 2; Penarth Cons B 1, Rhoeuse Social C 4.

League table: Harbour B 90, Savoy A 87, West End C 70, Cadoxton Cons B 69, Cadoxton Cons Z 63, Rhoeuse Social B 56, Rhoeuse Social C 55, Harbour A 52, Wyndham Cons A 52, Savoy B 43, Penarth Cons B 42, Wyndham Cons C 41.

### SKITTLES DIVISION 1:

Rugby Club 1.5, Allsorts 5.5; Rhoeuse Social A 5.5, Liberals C 1.5; Rhoeuse Social B 5.5, Rhoeusers 1.5; Liberals A 0, Sea View B 7; West End D 2, King William XII 5; Cambrian Flyers 6, Runway Club 1; Barries Boys 5, Slammers 2.

### SNOOKER DIVISION 2:

Railway A 1, Market Street C 4; Sully Sports A 3, Railway C 2; Market Street B 2, Services Social B 3; Penarth Cons D 4, Cadoxton Cons A 1; Railway B 4, West End B 1; Liberators 5, Penarth Cons A 0. League table: Railway A 86, Railway B 65, Market Street B 63, Liberators 62, Penarth Cons D 62, Services Social B 61, Market Street C 59, Sully Sports A 55, Cadoxton Cons A 54, Penarth Cons A 54, \*Railway C 42, West End B 42 (\* = points deducted).

### SNOOKER DIVISION 1:

Wyndham Cons C 3, Cadoxton Cons Z 2; Savoy B 2, Harbour B 3; Cadoxton Cons B 4,

All league & cup fixtures and results at [www.barryleagues.co.uk](http://www.barryleagues.co.uk) or Facebook - search for 'barry leagues'.

JW

## Beavers hold annual gala

**BARRY Beavers held their gala on March 21 at Barry Leisure centre; we came second overall, competing against seven Welsh clubs.**

The medalists were: gold Abigail Finch girls 25m; gold Jack Kemp boys 25m; gold senior relay Mark

Eveleigh/Gareth Lloyd/Nicky Cusden/James Jones; silver Lucy Lynch girls 25m; silver Callum

Savory boys 25m; silver Louis Davies boys 50m; silver Will Griffiths men's 50m; silver Sarah Davies ladies 100m; silver junior relay Jesse

Rodgers/Tyler Savory/Courtney Rogers/Abigail Finch; bronze Courtney Rogers girls 50m; bronze Ffion Jones girls 100m.

All the other swimmers improved their times, and they were Lindsey Johnston, Helen Lynch, Joanna Davies, Shannon Rogers,

Philip Daly, John Evans, Talisha Rogers, Layla Rogers, Robert Lynch, Matthew Lack, Kyle Siirak, Tracey Marchant/Sophie Woodham and Heather Williams.

We would like to thank Greggs and Renishaw for sponsoring our gala and Tesco's, Morrisons and Asda for their raffle prizes; also all the staff at Barry Leisure Centre for all their work making our gala go smoothly.

Thank you to our guests Howard and Carol Hamilton, Mayor and Mayoress of the Vale and also our patrons Mr and Mrs David Jenkins (High Sheriff) and Alun Cairns MP for presenting the medals and cups.

Also thank you to all the officials helping on the poolside, you all did well, also a thank you to Julie Doble for the catering.

(Keep an eye out for pictures next week).

PF

CC



# The heat is on at Llandow Kart Club!

**ALTHOUGH** the weather was a little on the wintry side, action at round two of Llandow Kart Club's 2015 championship kept everyone warm as a large entry produced exciting racing without a single red flag or unnecessary delay.

Numbers were given a healthy boost thanks to the inclusion of both the NKRA classes and smattering of visiting drivers getting experience of the South Wales Karting Centre circuit, with a first-ever grid of Junior X30s and massed Bambinos both notable inclusions in the line-up.

The finals proved to be some of the most exciting for a long time, with the action given the added intrigue of an ever-evolving surface that saw the advantage swing back and forth between wet and slick-shod runners as each race took to the track.

No fewer than 15 Bambinos took to the track, including Llandow stalwarts Nathan Browning and Ella Stevens. Both gave a good account of themselves, but could do nothing to deny Chance

Bennett a clean sweep of fastest times.

Stevens ended the day in second spot, ahead of Alfie Briggs and Brandon Carr, with Browning edging Oliver Wright for fifth. Cameron Crockett and Ryley Price, who both appeared at Llandow in February, were eighth and ninth respectively.

The Cadet Honda entry also took a return to the sort of numbers seen in recent seasons, with 22 runners. February runner-up Alex Lloyd took first blood with victory in heat one, before Kieron Jerney and last month's outright winner, Oliver Clarke staked their claim in heats two and three.

Clarke again came out on top in the main event, edging Lloyd by 0.120s to reprise their February battle. Guy Cunningham came through to complete the podium, ahead of Henry Laws and Jerney, but another couple of laps could have turned the result on its head with slick-shod sixth-placed driver Oliver Bearman clearly faster than those ahead of him as the track dried.

While the Honda entry would have been enough to warrant the Cadet categories being split, 14 IAME runners merited track time of their own – and were equally generous when it came to sharing race wins.

Dexter Patterson got the ball rolling in heat one, before Albert Carter and Taylor Barnard came good in the remaining qualifiers. The final, however, again came down to tyre choice and saw Patterson return to the fore, pulling out a decisive 6.5secs cushion as wets proved to be the answer.

The closely-matched group of Brad Kenneally, Carter, Llandow regular Shay Keough and Barnard – who were covered by 0.2secs – battled over the remaining podium positions.

By contrast, the Junior Honda class belonged to one driver all day, with Ben Cutler sweeping the meeting despite the best efforts of Alex Wilkins and novice Finley Green.

The first-ever event for the X30 class saw three runners join the Junior TKM regulars to push another grid into double figures, and saw Alfie Brown claim two heat wins before adding the final for good measure. Philip Hanson denied Brown a clean sweep by taking victory in heat three, while Callum Bradshaw was always in the mix.

The TKM runners shared their heat wins between Hugo Holmes, Lewis Griffiths and Louis Beaven, before Ryan Edwards trumped them all in the main event, heading Holmes and February winner Alex

Rees on the podium.

With Junior Rotax still absent from the running order, the younger half of the programme was completed by the visiting Junior Blues and, despite being a little slimmer in number than previous years, the racing still proved competitive. It also appeared to be going the way of Jake Calvert after he claimed all three heats, but the final was another matter, as a the frontrunner's choice of slicks proved to be the wrong one.

With the top two finishers being disqualified for technical infringements, the honours eventually went the way of Thomas Massarella, with Calvert a distant second and Lee Chamberlain completing the podium.

A changing of the guard has been creeping up on Senior Honda for some time, but was finally confirmed this weekend as the new wave of drivers dominated. Monty Gorringer and Kristian Prosser claimed the heat wins, and the former's superior haul was confirmed in the final as he narrowly held the upper hand over his rival, although the pair remained separated by just half a second at the chequered flag.

Tom Ford and Patrick Hill, who have followed Gorringer and Prosser into the senior ranks in past year, finished third and fourth, while Roberto Nardone and Nigel Vickery did their bit to uphold 'senior' honour from a comfortable distance.

Senior Rotax also saw a former junior champion making his mark, with Rob Ellis leading from the front in each of the day's four races. Sam Morgan, Scott Rose and Dilip Singh took it in turns to give chase through the heats, before Morgan returned to P2 to give Ellis his closest battle of the day in the main event. Gareth Taylor edged Singh for the final podium spot.

The Rotax field was joined by three TKM Extreme entries, with Nicholas Rees only denied a clean sweep by problems in heat three. Callum Johns picked up the pieces on that occasion and later claimed second spot in the final, ahead of Alex Lewis.

Formula Blue guested amongst the senior classes, with a number of familiar faces returning for their annual assault on the Llandow circuit. Chris Derrick and Ian Branfield shared the heat wins, before the latter equalled their tallies at two apiece, by coming out on top in the final. It may have been a different story had tyre choice not again been crucial, with

Matthew Parr and Kevin Ford completing the podium and Derrick only coming home in eighth spot.

Round three of the Llandow Kart Club championship will take place at South Wales Karting Centre on Sunday, April 19.

## RESULTS

**BAMBINO** - 1. Chance Bennett, 2. Ella Stevens, 3. Alfie Briggs; **CADET HONDA** - 1. Oliver Clarke, 2. Alex Lloyd, 3. Guy Cunningham; **CADET IAME** - 1. Dexter Patterson, 2. Brad Kenneally, 3. Albert Carter; **JUNIOR HONDA** - 1. Ben Cutler, 2. Alex Wilkins, 3. Finley Green; **JUNIOR TKM** - 1. Ryan Edwards, 2. Hugo Holmes, 3. Alex Rees.

**JUNIOR X30** - 1. Alfie Brown, 2. Callum Bradshaw, 3. Philip Hanson; **JUNIOR BLUE** - 1. Thomas Massarella, 2. Jake Calvert, 3. Lee Chamberlain; **SENIOR HONDA** - 1. Monty Gorringer, 2. Kristian Prosser, 3. Tom Ford; **SENIOR ROTAX** - 1. Rob Ellis, 2. Sam Morgan, 3. Gareth Taylor.

**TKM EXTREME** - 1. Nicholas Rees, 2. Callum Johns, 3. Alex Lewis; **FORMULA BLUE** - 1. Ian Branfield, 2. Matthew Parr, 3. Kevin Ford; **BEST NOVICE**: Ben Watson (Cadet Honda); **DRIVER OF THE DAY**: Finley Green (Junior Honda).

CL

## NEW SPORTS WORKSHOP

**THE Vale Council's Sports Development Team is offering a free Keeping Safe in Sport workshop to young people aged 13 to 17 who volunteer in a sports club in the Vale.**

The workshop will take place on Thursday, March 26, from 6pm to 8pm at the Civic Offices in Barry and will teach volunteers to be able to identify and recognise good practice for keeping children safe

and support safe sports sessions for children.

To book a place, or for more information, contact Julia Sky on 01446 704793 or email Jsky@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

These workshops are being delivered as part of the Vale Council's Creating Confident Coaches project which forms part of the Vale Sport plan.

For further information regarding education opportunities in the Vale please contact the Sports Development Team on 01446 704793.

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**VI Football Club secured their second final after their toughest test yet against Premier League heavyweights Cardiff Airport.**

Despite defensive heroics from the VI back line, Airport went ahead from close range at 38 minutes when their striker pounced on a goalmouth scramble to score.

Shortly after the half-time break, the Premiership leaders were reduced to 10 men after an Airport striker received a second yellow.

The added boost to the VI's cause spurred on Bill Laing's boys and Jordan Mortimore leveled on the hour mark, flicking Leigh Lewis' throw goalbound with his head.

An outstanding win then completed by a superb volley from Joe Laing. The young midfielder's defensive work is often praised but this weekend he makes the headlines for confirming a second final for his side.

After the match, the VI manager Bill Laing said: "I'm chuffed with the result after a gutsy second half after I feel we didn't do ourselves justice in the first. It was a typical semi-final where neither side wanted to give anything away."

Even with a confidence in their abilities, the VI's were labelled as underdogs heading into this cup clash with a Cardiff Airport who had won 19 games in a row across three competitions.

The game almost fell victim to postponement with the referee ruling the favoured BSC barrier pitch unplayable.

Luckily, there was a free pitch across the road and the match kicked off 20 minutes late.

Despite the disruption, the encounter began at a high tempo with Airport edging possession for the opening exchanges.

An unchanged VI back four managed to frustrate the Premier League attackers and showed why they've only conceded one goal in their last three matches.

Richie Humphreys was the pick of the defensive heroics with a superb, last-ditch, sliding goal-line clearance that shocked the already celebrating Cardiff players and fans.

Five minutes afterwards, the Airport supporters did have something to cheer about. Cardiff have scored 83 goals in 15 league matches (40 more than anyone else in the Premiership) and their pressure finally came to fruition when their striker pounced on a loose ball in the box to

finish from close range.

Leigh Lewis was brought on at the break to change things up and only minutes into the second half, the VI's received an extra boost as a moment of madness from one of Airport's forwards caused his dismissal from the game.

The striker was sent off for a second yellow after obstructing a VI free-kick from within the legal 10 yards. A harsh decision from the referee but a needless risk taken from an already booked player.

Bill Laing's side still had everything to do as they trailed by a goal against the best defence across all three VOGAFL divisions and 15 minutes passed of VI pressure but still no equaliser.

Aaron Rogers entered the fray to support the attack and the Division One leaders adapted to a more offense driven formation.

The two attacking substitutions kept Cardiff on the back foot and it wasn't long before the VI's persistence paid off. Jordan Mortimore has dominated many a headline in recent weeks as he enjoys a special scoring run of 13 games in a row - and the captain notched again.

One of L.Lewis' many attacking attributes are his long throw-ins and the winger returned to the side to deliver a pin point assist to Mortimore. The VI top scorer found on Lewis' throw with his head at the near post and levelled the score in this hotly contested tie.

New players have integrated well into the side including the likes of Flynn, Humphreys and Garrison, but the VI's have missed a couple of their standout originals from last season including Phil Morgan's goals and Leigh Lewis' assists.

One constant in the side however is the young midfielder Joe Laing. His work is often underrated as a defensive midfielder, and he rarely makes the headlines - but not in this game.

Another L.Lewis long throw caused problems for Airport in a packed penalty box and the ball fell to fellow substitute Rogers. The returning striker touched the loose ball towards Laing, who placed a volleyed effort into the top corner of Airport's goal.

His squad surrounded him as he celebrated

only his second goal of the season but possibly the VI's most important.

With only 10 men, Cardiff struggled to mount substantial attacks to level the game but did cause VI hearts to skip a beat when a deflected cross bounced off keeper Paul Lucas' post.

A monumental win in a huge week of the club's short two-year history, the VI's booking a second final in just seven days after beating last season's silverware rivals Rhosow Rovers in the Supporters Cup semi-finals the weekend before.

**Team:** P.Lucas, R.Lewis, N.Cox, R.Humphreys, J.Robinson, T.Charles, J.Laing, S.Flynn, D.Cleave, C.Goodwin, J.Mortimore.

**Substitutes:** R.West, D.Garrison, L.Lewis, J.Austin, A.Rogers.

We'd like to thank the many fans on both sides that gave the match a voice Saturday and also our sponsors - Owens Motor Services, Llandow, Higgsy Site Services, Barry & The Three Horseshoes Inn, St Athan.

We also wish the best of luck to outgoing squad member Sean Flynn.

The summer signing leaves the VI's to join the armed forces after enjoying a successful season for the club.

Eight goals for the VIFC have seen Flynn integrate himself into an already competitive starting line up to help the VI's fight for silverware across three competitions.

The VI's also received a boost in their league title quest as Sully Sports did the current division front-runners a huge favour by beating second placed Wenvoe Arms 4-3.

Wenvoe currently sit eight points behind VIFC but did have enough games in hand to overtake them by a single point. However, this setback for Nathan Osbourne's Wenvoe means they can only climb to two points behind the VI's with victories in their remaining spare games.

Elsewhere, there were large margin victories for Cogan and Dinas Powys while Cadoxton Athletic edged their derby 3-1 against Cadoxton Barry, and Albion slipped to a 10th consecutive league defeat.

RC



## Baker's heroics sees Llantwit reach final!

**L L A N T W I T MAJOR'S Year 10 boy's football team have made it through to the final of the Cardiff and Vale Cup final for the second year running after beating Plasmawr 4-3 on penalties.**

It was an outstanding effort by the entire team to overcome their rivals who they have lost to before, including in last year's final of the same cup.

Llantwit started the brighter of the two sides and created a number of early chances but were unable to get that all important goal. Plasmawr then grew in confidence and started to put pressure on Llantwit's defence, but they held firm.

Midway through the second half Plasmawr scored with a precise free kick to lead 1-0 but this only spurred Llantwit on to keep pressing in search of an equaliser.

That equaliser came when substitute Liam

Butcher popped up unmarked in the box to lay a perfectly weighted pass to striker Angus Mitchell, who buried his shot in the bottom right hand corner.

With eight minutes remaining Llantwit's defence and midfield again held firm to see the game into penalties.

Five penalty takers bravely stepped forward to take a penalty but not all five were needed.

Sam Snaith calmly placed his spot kick into the bottom right of the goal to lead 1-0. Plasmawr equalised before Cole Baker buried his penalty in the bottom left.

Joe Baker then made an excellent save low to his left which gave Llantwit their first glimpse of the final. Luke Beattie scored next with a very well placed shot and Plasmawr also scored to make the score 3-2.

Joe Baker then stepped up to the penalty spot and kept our 100 per cent scoring record alive - but his heroics were not over yet!

He then returned to the goal and saved Plasmawr's fourth penalty, resulting in Llantwit's progress to the final, winning 4-2 on penalties.

This was an excellent result for the Year 10 team and testament to how far they have developed as a team and matured as individuals, as they lost to this same side 7-1 in last year's Cardiff and Vale Cup

final. They will now play either St Teilo's or Fitzalan Comprehensive in the final, to be played later this year.

**Squad:** Joe Baker, Cole Baker, Declan Ellis, David Gaughan, James Cook, Lewis Brown, Sam Snaith, Luke Beattie, Ben Boyd, Luke George, Angus Mitchell, Liam Butcher, Dan Clarke, Lloyd Richards, Ryan Malton.

SB

## Great result for Vale chess team!

**ROUND five of the seven round Welsh Premier League saw the Vale play our nemesis, Cardiff.**

We always seem to get them halfway through the season when we still have hopes of finishing in the top two only for these hopes to be dashed by defeat to Cardiff.

This time however it was our turn to win by a score of 3.5 to 2.5. This win was earned by drawing on the top three boards, an area where Cardiff are particularly strong, and winning two of the bottom three boards.

This victory has moved us up to second in the table with six points from four games.

We are flying the flag for the East Glamorgan League as we are behind Abergavenny, who we still have to play and only better Cardigan on tie-break.

Our other remaining game is against Nidum who are normally a very strong team but this season they are struggling at the bottom of the league - two wins and who knows!

There were also two league games for the Barry club. The Bosons played host to the Penarth Pirates and eventually took a 3-5 to 1.5 victory with three wins, a draw and a defeat.

This has temporarily moved the Bosons back to the top of the league but they have played more matches than their

rivals and will likely drop to fourth when all the other teams complete their 16th matches as well.

In division 3 there was a tough encounter for the Quarks. In a match with evenly rated players the Quarks lost to the team immediately below them, the Cardiff Cavaliers, 3-2.

However with a big win for Pontypridd Phoenix the Quarks, Cavaliers and Phoenix now find themselves all on 42 points only separated by the tie break which is currently in favour of the Quarks.

With difficult matches against the two teams above them still to come, and only three games left, the Quarks could find themselves outside the promotion spots come the end of April!

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club, St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at [barrychessclub.yolasite.com](http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com).

PJ

## Cowbridge darts league round-up

**On Tuesday, March 17, a full programme of league matches was played.**

The Edmondson B lost 2-7 to Highwayman Inn while the Hare and Hounds defeated the Old Post Ladies 7-2, with John Izzard hitting a 144 3-dart out.

The Farmers Arms lost 1-8 to the Edmondson A with Steve Simmonite (Edmondson A) hitting a 180. Llanharry won 8-1 against the Edmondson C, with Victor John (Llanharry) hitting a 180 and also winning a leg in just nine darts.

Present league standings after 18 matches, are: Llanharry (133 points), Edmondson B (100), Highwayman Inn (95), Edmondson A

(86), Hare and Hounds (75), Farmer's Arms (66), Edmondson C (57) and Old Post Ladies (34).

On Tuesday, March 31, there is a full programme of league matches. The Old Post Ladies hosts the Edmondson A, the Highwayman Inn hosts the Farmers Arms, the Edmondson C hosts the Hare and Hounds and the Edmondson B hosts Llanharry.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome. For further information e-mail Paul a

cowbridgedarts@gmail.com; up-to-date information can be found on the website: [www.darts.apsn.co.uk](http://www.darts.apsn.co.uk).

PJT

## Joel is off to join Toulon

**JOEL RINGER, the captain of Cardiff and Vale College's Rugby Academy team, has been signed to top French team Toulon.**

Joel has signed an academy contract with the French giants. The son of former Wales flanker Paul Ringer will be following in the footsteps of Leigh Halfpenny and Bryan Habana.

Joel said: "I'm very excited - it's an opportunity that no-one my age gets. Usually players my age end up in England if they decide to leave Wales. Toulon, in my opinion, is the best club side in the northern hemisphere."

When scouts from the club spoke to him, Joel said the decision to accept the academy offer was a "no-brainer".

The 18-year-old business studies student from Penarth will move out to Toulon, and his family will accompany him for the first few weeks as he settles down in his new life.

Joel said his experience at CAVC has stood him in good stead.

"The college has helped me and also the rugby academy has been hugely supportive," he explained. "The support on the sporting and academic side has been a massive help."







# SIX NATIONS RUGBY

Who said rugby is boring?



## The three-way tries bonanza that decided who dares wins the race to the Six Nations championship!



ABOVE:

Wales' skipper, Sam Warburton, on the charge. His try was one highlight among many in the Rome arena.

As the Welsh players lined up against Italy at Stadio Olimpico in Rome on Saturday for the start of a three-way guessing game over the final outcome of the 2015 Six Nations championship, they knew that win, lose or draw, they were in for a long afternoon.

Like Wales, two other rivals were also vying for the coveted title in what was to be a truly remarkable finale – each with just one loss behind them – but the complex maths meant that a simple win was unlikely to be enough, with Wales trailing way behind the others on points difference.

They were keenly aware that pre-tournament favourites Ireland would be up next to stake their claim against the struggling Scots at Murrayfield, while England were later favoured to beat the unpredictable French at home in Twickenham, and also had a higher tries haul – should it come down to that.

So the odds were firmly against head coach Warren Gatland's men from the start, and their only hope was to swamp the Italians under a deluge of points, while, at the same time, defending their own line, and trust that results elsewhere went their way – a risky strategy against four opponents who had already claimed Scotland's scalp and, moreover, had never found any difficulty in running up double figures against Wales in the past.

Gatland himself acknowledged this banana skin beforehand, warning: "The worst thing for us would be to go out and try to score 40-50 points against Italy, end up playing too much rugby early on and lose the game – then find Scotland and France win and we have potentially cost ourselves the championship. Let's win the game first!"

The Kiwi was wise to be wary, for although

Wales had won 18 of the 21 fixtures between the two since 1994, many of these were far from one-sided affairs: in fact, Italy had won two of the nine matches on their own soil (30-22 in 2003 and 23-20 in 2007), and had even earned a shock 18-18 draw at the Millennium Stadium in March 2006.

True, Wales had once steamrollered over the tournament's so-called 'minnows' (60-21 at Treviso), but that was way back in Rugby World Cup year 1999, 12 months before an emergent Italy entered the Six Nations, and the modern day descendants of ancient Rome have grown as a fighting force since then.

The big question now was – could Wales match or surpass that 1999 score line, to have any chance of wiping out the big points deficit – and throw down the gauntlet to the camps of their two main title rivals who would be anxiously looking on and doing their sums in Edinburgh and London?

It didn't look too promising when Wales were penalised straight from the kick-off and immediately fell three points behind; but Leigh Halfpenny equalised five minutes later when Italy were penalised and was then called on again in another exchange of penalties, which levelled the score at 6-6.

In the absence of injured first choice props Samson Lee and Gethin Jenkins, the Welsh scrum was expected to struggle, with inexperienced young recruits up against the gnarled old veterans of the Italian front row.

This indeed proved to be the case, but in fact, Ospreys' Aaron Jarvis and new boy Rob Evans (Scarlets) steadied well after early struggles up front and would go on to make their presence felt around the park as the game loosened up.

At this stage, though, it was Italy applying the pressure and it was somewhat against the run of play when Wales inched ahead



Photographs by Huw Evans Agency.

ABOVE:

'Hang on, where's the ball?' Wales start to get on top as battle is waged up front.

### BACK PAGE COMMENT

by Don John

through a try by Jamie Roberts, following a clever chip ahead by Halfpenny, who failed to convert.

Welsh relief was short lived when Italy regained the lead with a converted try four minutes later that took the score to 13-11. Then Wales suffered a further hammer blow when Halfpenny was injured making a try-saving tackle and was replaced by Scott Williams, who went on to the wing, with Liam Williams moving to full back.

Almost on the stroke of halftime, Wales were awarded a penalty which outside half Dan Biggar, who had taken over the kicking duties, lofted over to make the scoreline 13-14 to Wales.

The one-point lead at the change-over was a fair reflection of a below-par, error-riddled first half that made Welsh hopes of a title-winning points blitz seem a very distant dream indeed.

In fact, though, the second half saw a magical transformation, with an effervescent Wales running in seven tries from all directions (including a hat-trick by George North), all but one converted by Biggar, as they suddenly opened to the realisation that they had just 40 minutes to chase the championship dream.

It began with livewire Liam Williams, who raced through defenders to jubilantly touch down near the posts, and then set up North for the first of his three tries, before scrum half Rhys Webb darted over – quickly followed by two more North tries.

Skipper Sam Warburton then joined in the try spree with a lung-searing solo effort and Scott Williams' converted try completed a breathless second half which had yielded 47 points.

It was slightly marred by a breakaway converted try by Italy almost on the stroke of full time, to make the final score 20-61 –

almost identical to that 1999 result in Treviso!

The 'who dares wins' challenge was for the Irish to triumph by 21 points, the English 26 points, if they were to snatch the Six Nations trophy.

The Welsh players had done all they could in an heroic effort, led (as always) from the front by Warburton and deserved man-of-the-match Alun Wyn Jones. They had raised the bar, and now had to wait on news from Murrayfield and Twickenham.

In the event, of course, last up England narrowly failed to reach the target set by six points, despite a 55-35 victory over France, leaving the jubilant Irish to retain the championship after crushing sorry Scotland by 40-10.

Perhaps, though, on a day when a total of 221 points were scored, including 27 tries, rugby union was the true winner – giving a timely reminder in World Cup year of how exciting a running game it can be – and not just turgid, crash-bang-wallop!

After such an impressive Six Nations rugby display, Wales, England and Ireland will be heading for the tournament with their hopes high, but they should be wary of seeing that final bonanza day as a repudiation of canny New Zealand coach Steve Hansen's comment on "boring", defensively-minded northern hemisphere rugby.

No doubt he intended it as an early psychological shot across the home nations' bows before RWC hostilities commence in the autumn.

In truth, though, teams throwing caution to the wind to chase points margins would suit the Kiwi coach no end, for it would play right into the hands of the southern hemisphere giants who are long conditioned to such a fast-paced style of play and have the weaponry in their arsenal to combat it.

Either way, the equally canny Kiwi, Gatland, is hardly likely to swallow the bait!



# A COFFEE WITH CAIRNS

**O**UR reporter sat down for a coffee with Alun Cairns, to learn more about the man who has represented the residents of the Vale in Parliament since 2010.

*Our reporter: Alun, you've been the Vale MP for five years – what have you tried to achieve?*

**Alun:** There is no job description as an MP, but from the moment I was elected I wanted to do three things – pass laws in Parliament, champion Barry and the Vale and, importantly, help any resident that has been let down or treated unfairly.

It has been an incredibly interesting period and I feel like I am just getting started. I have tried to help as many people as possible, from the smallest issue to securing a life changing operation – I see helping people in any area of the Vale as my most important role.

*Our reporter: What have you taken to Parliament from the Vale?*

**Alun:** A major achievement has been the success of my call to change the law on nuisance phone calls. This issue was raised by

Barry and the rural Vale residents, contacting me about the ridiculous amount of nuisance calls that we all received whether we wanted them or not. The law is set to be changed forcing companies to display their number when calling. This means residents can find out who is calling and block the calls.

It is my job to represent the views of my constituents – I have done so for the past five years and hope to continue to do the same after the election.

*Our reporter: Do you have any other message for the residents of the Vale?*

**Alun:** Just a simple thank you for allowing me the privilege of representing the Vale of Glamorgan in Parliament. I want to continue to serve, and I am looking forward to the election campaign. I hope to see the many people that I have met over the past few years when I am out knocking doors during the campaign.

*If you see me, please say hello and if you have any questions during the campaign, just email me at [alun@aluncairns.com](mailto:alun@aluncairns.com)*



**ABOVE:**  
Alun has visited many sports clubs around Barry and the Vale.



**RIGHT:**  
Alun Cairns fights for better services in the Vale, like improved broadband and 4G mobile reception.



Alun with his wife Emma and son Henri do many activities in their spare time.



Alun has raised several thousands of pounds for charity. He is running in the 2015 London Marathon.

**RIGHT:**  
Alun has taken action on the island and delivered results in Barry and the Vale.



Alun Cairns working for Barry and Vale residents in Parliament



Alun Cairns is a backer of small business. The regeneration of Barry Island will grow the economy in the Vale.

This 4-page wrap has been funded by voluntary donations to the Vale of Glamorgan Conservatives.



# MP calls for '4G' pitches across Barry and Vale

## CAMPAIGN ON THE LOCAL SPORTS SCENE



**Alun Cairns MP is campaigning for artificial, next-generation '4G' sports pitches to be installed in Barry and the Vale to prevent the postponement of sports matches in the winter months.**

He recently met with coaches and players from the Barry Mini League, who told him that teams often go for many weeks without playing because of the poor state of the pitches.

Current facilities are often deemed unplayable during bad weather conditions, but artificial pitches are able to cope.

Sport Wales has made funding available for 4G pitches to be built in the Vale, and Alun is pressing to make sure that this is used for installations in Barry, Dinas Powys and Llantwit Major.

Alun said, "I have met with teams from Barry, Rhosce, Llantwit Major and Cowbridge to discuss the need for new

artificial surface facilities.

"It is vital to ensure that Barry and the Vale have a full complement of 4G pitches as soon as possible to avoid disruptions to community sport.

"Getting children across the Vale playing sport is really important and a real passion of mine. It teaches teamwork and discipline alongside the obvious health benefits. Let's make sure they have the pitches they need."

Alun added: "Barry is the largest town in Wales, and the principal town in the Vale – we really need to see the investment being made in providing players of field sports with a facility that the community can use.

"We need to plans put in place so that players of all ages and abilities don't have to suffer another winter of postponements and poor playing surfaces."



**Alun is calling for better sports facilities in Barry and the rural Vale. Children need the best opportunity to develop sporting skills.**

## Vale MP calls for airport 'ghost bus' to be scrapped to save local bus services

**Figures obtained by Vale of Glamorgan MP Alun Cairns show that the barely-used T9 Airport Express service costs nearly £450,000 per year to run.**

Alun Cairns, a long standing critic of the T9 service is dismayed at the huge cost of running the unpopular airport link bus at a time when local bus services need support.

The T9, dubbed the 'MT9' and 'Ghost Bus' by local people, costs £1,499 per day in the summer and £849 per day during the winter months.

Peter Woodford, a Barry resident, said, "I see the T9 going up and down

Port Road. Most of the time it looks completely empty. I can't believe the Labour Welsh Government are spending so much money on a service that is barely used."

Alun Cairns wants to see the money spent on the T9 allocated to local bus routes.

He said, "It is a shame that at the same time as cutting subsidies to the buses that local people rely on, the Labour Welsh Government have decided to prioritise spending on a service attracting so little demand."

"As part of my campaign to secure bus services in Barry and the Vale, I want to see T9 funding used to support local buses."

## EMPLOYMENT BOOM IN BARRY AND VALE

**Alun Cairns MP has welcomed the news that unemployment continues to fall in Barry and the Vale, with 381 fewer people claiming job seekers allowance since February 2014.**

Since 2010, unemployment has fallen significantly and more families have been able to build on the security of a regular wage to get on life. In the Vale, more than 38,000 residents have seen their income tax cut since 2010 and the 2015 budget set out a plan to further boost job prospects growth locally.

Alun regularly visits

companies across all areas of the Vale to better understand the issues affecting business, and to hear exciting plans for job creation in a number of industries. Employment prospects continue to improve in the Vale, with significant investment being made by many companies and the regeneration of Barry Island.

Alun said: "It is great news that unemployment continues to fall in the Vale of Glamorgan. We are now entering a sustained period of recovery and the Government will stick to the long-term economic plan. I am encouraged by the confidence being shown by local businesses investing in



growth and job creation."

Alun added: "I find it inspiring to see entrepreneurs grow their businesses, and I

want to attract them to the Vale of Glamorgan. These businesses create job and apprenticeships for our sons and daughters. The

Conservative long-term economic plan is designed to support the next big business project here in Barry and the Vale."



**Alun fights for Barry and the Vale.**

**Promoted by Ross England on behalf of Alun Cairns, both of 29 High Street, Barry CF62 7EB.  
Printed by Glamorgan GEM Ltd., 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.**

**This 4-page wrap has been funded by voluntary donations to the Vale of Glamorgan Conservatives.**